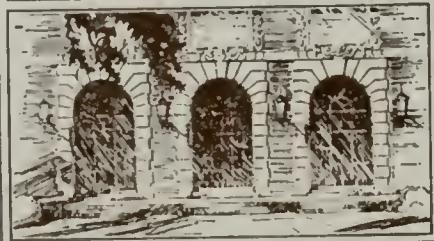


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INVENTORY OF THE COUNTY ARCHIVES OF ILLINOIS

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VERMILION COUNTY
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HISTORICAL RECORDS SURVEY
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INVENTORY OF THE COUNTY ARCHIVES
OF ILLINOIS

Prepared by

The Illinois Historical Records Survey Project
Division of Professional and Service Projects
Work Projects Administration

No. 92. VERMILION COUNTY (DANVILLE)

* * * * *

Chicago, Illinois
The Illinois Historical Records Survey Project
March 1940

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FOREWORD

The Inventory of the County Archives of Illinois is one of a number of bibliographies of historical material prepared throughout the United States by workers on The Historical Records Survey Projects of the Work Projects Administration. The publication herewith presented, an inventory of the archives of Vermilion County, is number 92 of the Illinois series.

The Historical Records Survey was undertaken in the winter of 1935-36 for the purpose of providing useful employment to needy unemployed historians, lawyers, teachers, and research and clerical workers. In carrying out this objective, the project was organized to compile inventories of historical materials, particularly the unpublished government documents and records which are basic in the administration of local government, and which provide invaluable data for students of political, economic, and social history. The archival guide herewith presented is intended to meet the requirements of day-to-day administration by the officials of the county, and also the needs of lawyers, business men, and other citizens who require facts from the public records for the proper conduct of their affairs. The volume is so designed that it can be used by the historian in his research in unprinted sources in the same way he uses the library card catalog for printed sources.

The inventories produced by the Historical Records Survey Projects attempt to do more than give merely a list of records - they attempt further to sketch in the historical background of the county or other unit of government, and to describe precisely and in detail the organization and functions of the government agencies whose records they list. The county, town, and other local inventories for the entire country will, when completed, constitute an encyclopedia of local government as well as a bibliography of local archives.

The successful conclusion of the work of The Historical Records Survey Projects even in a single county, would not be possible without the support of public officials, historical and legal specialists, and many other groups in the community. Their cooperation is gratefully acknowledged.

The Survey was organized by Luther H. Evans and directed by him until his resignation in December, 1939, shortly after which he was succeeded by the present director, Sargent B. Child; it operates as a nation-wide series of locally sponsored projects in the Division of Professional and Service Projects, of which Florence Kerr, Assistant Commissioner, is in charge.

F. C. Harrington
Commissioner

PREFACE

The undertaking now officially designated The Historical Records Survey Projects, was initiated nationally in January, 1936, as part of the Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration, now the Work Projects Administration. In Illinois the Survey became an independent unit in August, 1936, but continued to operate as part of the nation-wide project under the technical supervision of Dr. Luther H. Evans, National Director, and under the administrative supervision of the Division of Professional and Service Projects. Dr. Evans resigned in December, 1939, and shortly thereafter was succeeded by the present director, Sargent B. Child. Alston G. Field and Howard E. Colgan were the first two state directors, the former serving until November 1, 1937, and the latter to May 16, 1939. On September 1, 1939, the Illinois State Library, of which Secretary of State Edward J. Hughes is State Librarian and Helene H. Rogers, Superintendent of State Library Divisions, became the sponsor of The Illinois Historical Records Survey Project. On January 15, 1940, this sponsorship was assumed by the University of Illinois.

In compiling this inventory of the archives of Vermilion County, the Survey has sought to locate, describe, and classify all extant county records and to make them more easily accessible to county officials, the general public, and research workers. It is believed that this inventory will be useful in the preservation of this valuable material, and as a guide to the archives wherein may be found so much important information in the field of history, sociology, political science, and economics. While some historians have realized this for many years, the general public has never been made aware of the intrinsic worth of this material. In the official documents of Vermilion County are found the materials of another chapter in the story of the coming into the Illinois wilderness of settlers who created a territory and the rudiments of a simple frontier government, bought and sold land, built roads, established schools, and later founded a state.

The Illinois Historical Records Survey Project has proved to be of considerable assistance to local and county governments. Records have been rearranged and made more accessible, material believed to be lost has been located, indexing projects have been fostered, and county officials have been encouraged and induced to provide new equipment for their offices and better storage space for the records.

In addition, the program of the Project has been planned to dovetail with the long-range plans of the State of Illinois for the care of state and local archives. For example, the first step, the removal of all state records to a new Archives Building, has been materially aided by the preparation of preliminary inventories by survey workers for the various state departments. Furthermore, the program of the state for the preservation of county records, including the making of microphotographic copies of all important historical documents, obviously presupposes inventories such as The Illinois Historical Records Survey Project is now making.

The inventories being compiled by The Historical Records Survey Projects also make possible for the first time a scientific study of the question of record destruction. Under Illinois law no records may be destroyed without specific enabling legislation. This provision, together with the tremendous increase in the quantity of records in recent years, has made it impossible for either the state or the counties to take care of the documents adequately. Hence, a certain amount of record destruction has been inevitable. If, as seems probable, a study of these inventories should lead to the enactment of adequate and sensible legislation governing the disposition of public records, these compilations may prove to be the most important contribution of the Survey.

Preliminary work on the survey of records in Vermilion County, the ninety-second county on the alphabetically arranged list of one hundred and two counties in Illinois, was begun April 27, 1936, and completed as far as possible June 29 of the same year. Original rechecking was done through the district office of the Survey in Springfield during 1937 and completed February 26, 1938. An additional check of various county offices was made during the remainder of the year, and the final field forms sent to the state office in Chicago on January 11, 1939. A final check was then begun February 28 and completed April 8, 1939. Abstracting and transcribing of county board records was started October 10, 1938, and finished November 14, 1939. The inventory was taken by Cal Atkinson, Nolan Huff, Paul E. Doty, James Stephens, Robert L. Stunkard, Nettie B. Brown, and Ruth Cunningham under the supervision of Kenneth C. Blood.

The inventory was prepared for publication by the state editorial staff of The Illinois Historical Records Survey Project at Chicago, under the supervision of Herbert R. Rifkind. Preparation of Part B of the inventory was under the direction of Martine O'Connor; Irving E. Barnett supervised the preparation of the legal essays; the historical sketch was written by Gifford Ernest; and the format was prepared and collated by Edward J. McDonough. In addition, too much credit cannot be given to the other members of the editorial, research and typing staffs for their intelligent and diligent cooperation in the compilation of this inventory.

All of the officers of Vermilion County cooperated in every way with the workers, and grateful acknowledgement of their aid is hereby made. I also wish to express appreciation for the assistance rendered by the officials of the Illinois Work Projects Administration and the Illinois Writers' Project. For the cover design we are indebted to the Illinois Art Project.

The various units of the Inventory of the County Archives of Illinois will be available for distribution to governmental offices, libraries, schools, and historical societies in Illinois, and libraries and governmental agencies in other states. Requests for information concerning particular units of the Inventory should be addressed to the State Supervisor.

Royal S. Van de Woestyne
Royal S. Van de Woestyne
State Supervisor
The Illinois Historical Records
Survey Project

March 15, 1940

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I. HISTORICAL SKETCH

Introduction

Vermilion County is located in an area well favored with material resources; it was, therefore, predestined to developments important in the making of Illinois history. Long before the white man appeared in the wilderness and on the outspread meadows west of the Allegheny Mountains, north of the Ohio and east of the Mississippi rivers, the aborigines and roaming beasts had beaten trails from all directions of the compass to the salt springs on the Vermilion River. Then as now the lodestone of exploration and settlement was food or its equivalents, such as gold, furs, and other exchangeable goods of trade and commerce.¹

Around the world, salt is an essential element in the diet of all animal life. It is not surprising, therefore, that some of the earliest white traders, hunters, and adventurers who penetrated the territory should have left the blazed trails of the French explorers to follow the savages of the prairies to the saline springs along the Vermilion tributary to the Wabash River.² The Indians carefully guarded the source of their salt supply until near the time when they were forced to depart from a region where they had enjoyed great happiness and security. The white men were better equipped for conquest of the virgin prairies than were the Indians. The hostile and unyielding attitude of different tribes that successively held this territory against the white invader was one of the reasons why the section was not settled for almost a score of years after the beginning of the nineteenth century. It was not long thereafter that the region was organized as a county and took its place as a governmental unit of the commonwealth of Illinois.

1. Lottie E. Jones, History of Vermilion County, Illinois (Chicago: Pioneer Printing Company, 1911), p. 40, 47, 48. Hereinafter referred to as Vermilion County, Illinois.
2. Ibid., p. 40, 41. The scarcity of salt west of the Allegheny Mountains in the exploration and early settlement periods was indicated by the statement made in a book published in 1796 that "there was no salt to be had west of the mountains, excepting at Marietta, and what is for sale there is brought over the mountains on pack horses, and is sold for sixteen cents a pound."

Historical Sketch

The County's Physical Environment

Physical Features

Located on the eastern border of the state and adjoining a county in Indiana by the same name, but spelled differently, Vermilion County is about halfway between the northern and southern boundaries of the state. Its almost rectangular shape is modified by a wedgelike projection of land extending from near the southeastern corner into Edgar County, and by a setback about middle way in the western boundary which makes the northern half of the county slightly narrower than the southern half. To the north Vermilion adjoins Iroquois County, and to the west Ford and Champaign counties, while Edgar alone joins it on the south as if mortised together with the wedge of land mentioned above. It lies generally between parallels of latitude 40° to 41° north and in longitude 87° to 88° west. It averages 21.5 miles in width and 42 miles in length, embracing 921 square miles which comprise an area of about 589,440 acres of land.¹

The territory out of which this county was formed, topographically considered, belongs to the Indiana region adjoining it. It is drained almost entirely by tributaries of the Wabash River, which in turn drain into the Ohio and thence into the Mississippi. The Salt Fork of the Big Vermilion River runs through the center of the county from the west, and the Middle Fork of the Big Vermilion, which drains the section from the northwest, joins it and forms the Big Vermilion proper near the center of the county. Stony Creek empties into the Salt Fork, draining the lands of the west north half of the county. The North Fork of the Big Vermilion runs from the north and northeast and empties into the main stream, or Big Vermilion, at Danville. The Big Vermilion turns southeast and leaves the county for its Wabash River destination.² The Little Ver-

1. C. L. Stewart and Associates, Land Acreage of Minor Civil Divisions, 101 Illinois Counties (Urbana: Division of Land Economics, Department of Agriculture Economics, Agriculture Experiment Station, University of Illinois, 1936), p. 20. Note: Discrepancies between official reports on land area of Vermilion County occur; the area is variously given from 882 to 1,000 square miles.
2. The act providing for the sale of the Vermilion Saline Reserve indicates that the Big Vermilion River originates at the confluence of the Middle Fork and the Salt Fork, instead of, as some writers infer, at the mouth of the North Fork at Danville; that is, that in the Big Vermilion River system, the Big Vermilion proper begins where the North Fork of the Big Vermilion empties into the stream formed by the Salt Fork and Middle Fork (R.L.1829, p. 143). The act authorizing the building of certain bridges across the Big Vermilion specifically names the "North Fork of the Big Vermilion River," and the "Middle Fork of the Big Vermilion." This seems to clarify the confusion in terminology on many maps and in much written history relative to designations of the streams in the Big Vermilion system (L. 1839, p. 137).

Historical Sketch

million has its source in Champaign County and flows easterly through the southern part of Vermilion County. Though it is little more than a prairie drain where it enters the county, it grows larger as it flows on and leaves the state near the southeastern corner of the county to empty into the Wabash River some distance south of the mouth of the Big Vermilion River. The Big Vermilion system drains an area embracing 1,280 square miles in the states of Illinois and Indiana.¹

The face of this area is rather uneven though not particularly rough or broken except for a very narrow belt of bluff and gullied land along the streams. It is divided topographically into a southern half and northern half by the edge of the Outer Bloomington moraine, which is an accumulation of earth and stones deposited in the last of the four glacial periods of the Glacial Epoch. This moraine, beginning at the Indiana state line just north of Danville, crosses through the northern edge of the city and, extending north and northwest, leaves the county just west of the village of Hope. That part of the county lying north of this line is relatively rolling, with only a scattering of small nearly level areas. South of this line the land surface is generally nearly level, but has a scattering of prominent morainal knolls and ridges, particularly along the southern border of the county.²

There are high banks or bluffs along the streams after they enter the timbered sections along their courses, with bottoms wider where they have cut through the softer beds of rock, and narrower where they have encountered the harder sandstone. The diversified land surface includes the prairie, which is the level or savanna land, and numerous hummocks and ridges that make up the terrain of the county. These latter belong to the moraines and are the result of direct glacial deposition. Besides the Outer Bloomington moraine mentioned above, two branches of the Champaign moraine cross the southern part of the county south of the Salt Fork. Also, the Paxton and Chatsworth moraines, sometimes classed as parts of Bloomington morainal system, lie across the northern end of the county.

The prairies stretch south and west of the Big Vermilion River from Danville. Small areas of prairie are also to be found in the vicinity of Hillery and in other localities between the Salt Fork and the Little Vermilion. To the north and west of Hillery is a broad expanse of prairie. The townships of Ross, Grant, Catlin, Oakwood, and part of Butler are included in this prairie which is often and incorrectly spoken of as the Grand Prairic. The broad morainal ridge that crosses the prairie from the northeast to the southwest is forty-five degrees above the prairie in the vicinity of Danville. As seen from the south the ridge is prominent,

1. Diagram of Big Vermilion River System, Geological Survey (United States Department of Interior, 1933).
2. Herman Wascher and Others, Vermilion County Soils, Soil Report No. 62 (Urbana: University of Illinois, June, 1938), p. 7. Hereinafter referred to as Vermilion County Soils.

Historical Sketch

but from the north it appears nearly on the prairie level. The valleys carved by the Big Vermilion and its forks cross both the prairie and the ridge. These valleys have cut into valuable farming lands and have proved to be barriers to transportation. The exposed strata revealed show beds of coal which make the region important economically and industrially.

Some of the valleys are broad and at places where they have cut through the softer beds of rock spread into amphitheaters a mile or more in width. They vary in depth from 50 to 100 feet, with steep walls that sometimes are precipitous. The lowest point in the county is the Big Vermilion River channel near the state line; this point is shown on the topographic map of the United States Geological Survey as being 490 feet above sea level. Several places 790 feet above sea level occur on the Outer Bloomington moraine west of Collison. The general level of the south half of the county ranges from 650 to 790 feet above sea level.

Good supplies of water are obtained at a depth of 15 to 50 feet. The northwest part of the county is included in the artesian region of Eastern Illinois, and wells sunk there yield a never-failing supply of water at a depth of 30 to 100 feet. A few level areas occur which have to be artificially dredged before the land can be farmed satisfactorily. The largest of these areas lies between Salt Fork and Little Vermilion rivers. Another lies west and northwest of Fithian and along the base of the Bloomington moraine; still another occurs around the town of Henning. There is but one lake in the county, Lake Vermilion, and that was artificially created by damming the North Fork River just north of Danville; it covers 830 acres of land and is the source of the water supply for Danville.

Climate

The climate is typical of that prevailing in North Central United States and is characterized by a wide range in temperature between the extremes of winter and summer seasons and by a somewhat irregularly distributed rainfall. The mean summer temperature during the twenty-year period 1917 to 1936 inclusive, as taken at the Danville weather station, was 73.6° F., while the mean winter temperature was 31.3° F., and the average mean annual temperature was 52.7° F. The highest temperature recorded during this period was 112° F., in July, 1936, and the lowest was -23° F. in January, 1924. The latest killing frost in the same twenty-year weather record occurred on May 26, 1933. The average date for latest killing frosts was April 29. The earliest was September 24, 1928, and the average fell on October 11. The shortest growing season recorded was 134 days in 1928; the longest was 202 days in 1918. The average frost-free growing season is 171 days, which is ample for crops commonly grown to maturity.¹

1. Vermilion County Soils, p. 6,7.

Historical Sketch

The average annual precipitation at the Danville weather station for the twenty-year period 1917 to 1936 inclusive, was 36.62 inches. This included water melted from an average snowfall of about 17 inches. The driest months of the year for the period were January and February with an average precipitation of 1.67 inches each. May and September were the wettest months with an average of 3.95 inches each, while April, June, and August were not far behind with an average of 3.67 inches each month. The twenty-year average for July was 2.86 inches.

Protracted rainless periods do occur. In twenty years during the growing season from May through September there were thirty-six periods of more than twenty consecutive days' duration that were unbroken by rain. There were nine periods of more than forty days, and two periods of more than sixty days' duration that were unbroken by rain. Thus, it is apparent that if the average monthly precipitation were evenly distributed and came at regular intervals, there would probably always be sufficient moisture in the soil for normal plant growth, and sustained droughts would be unknown to this county.¹

Natural Resources

The Vermilion country had its physical beginnings in geologic time when the measure was that of eras, each of which, scientifically considered, was millions of years in duration. Geologic forces an eternity ago determined that the natural resources of the area of this county were to be largely of an agricultural, and of a combustible mineral nature. For practical purposes, because of the economic significance and therefore its importance to the social and cultural progress of man, the Carboniferous Period is a record written in rock, minerals, and fossils easily understood and evaluated. Although its stretch as a measure of time lies beyond the untaught comprehension of man, nevertheless, the happenings of the period are factual and observable. It was in the Carboniferous Period and the Age of Amphibians when the sunshine of ancient days in the form of partially decomposed vegetable matter was pickled or preserved as solid carbon. It is known as coal and is sometimes nicknamed "black diamond." The coal bearing strata of Illinois belong, with unimportant exceptions, to what is known as the Pennsylvania system, so called because it is very completely represented by the coal bearing strata (commonly called Coal Measures) of that state.²

The coal beds of Vermilion County belong to two of the three divisions into which the coal bearing beds of the state have been separated. The oldest of these strata is the Pottsville division, which lies below the Carbon-dale bed. The youngest coal, or topmost bed is the McLeansboro division

1. Vermilion County Soils, p. 6,7.
2. Gilbert H. Cody, Coal Resources of District IV, Bulletin No. 26, Co-operative Mining Series (Urbana: Division Geological Survey, Department of Registration and Education, 1921), p. 17. Hereinafter referred to as Coal Resources, District IV.

Historical Sketch

which takes its name from the county seat of Hamilton County where borings revealed that the bed is 1,000 feet below the surface of the earth in that locality.¹ The Carbondale division, which is typically exposed near Carbondale in Jackson County, includes all the productive coal beds in Illinois except the Rock Island or Seville and the Danville or Streator coals. The coals of the Carbondale division are numbered 2, 5, and 6. Number 6 is called Herrin, Belleville or Grape Creek coal; the latter is mined in the vicinity of the Westville, Vermilion County. The Grape Creek coal is correlated with coal No. 6, largely because of the similarity between the fossil plants in the roof shales in the Danville field and in the roof of typical coal No. 6 of southern Illinois. In the northern and southwestern parts of Vermilion County the lowermost beds of the Carbondale division were either never deposited or they were uplifted and eroded after deposition prior to glacial times. The present rock surface under the drift consists of strata older than the Coal Measures.²

The McLeansboro division or Danville coal is also known as No. 7; it is mined near Danville and Fairmont, and appears in the river bluffs below the Wabash River bridge and is traced up the Salt Fork to Butler Branch where it dips slightly beneath the river level.³ This coal bed averages 5 feet in thickness, but decreases in places to a band 2 feet and 8 inches, which is barren of productive coals. Coal No. 6 (Grape Creek) of the Carbondale division is variable in thickness but averages 6 feet in the important mining area south of Danville. West and southwest of Danville its thickness decreases materially. The areas of the best development of coals Nos. 6 and 7 do not coincide; where one is thick the other is almost invariably thin and unimportant. No. 7 coal comes close enough to the surface in places to permit strip mining.⁴ The coal of the Pottsville division, the oldest of the Coal Measures rocks, is known locally in Vermilion County as the "Mud Vein." It lies from 165 to 220 feet below the Grape Creek bed, and is so impure that it has never been mined in the district.⁵

Chemical analysis of the coals of the Grape Creek and Danville veins show that the former has a larger percentage of carbon than the latter, and that No. 7 coal is less suitable for domestic use because it contains more sulphur than No. 6. However, No. 7 furnishes more actual heat units per pound than No. 6, which has a lower percentage of ash. Bed No. 6 has 40.23 percent fixed carbon and 14.45 percent moisture. Bed No. 7 has 38.75 percent fixed carbon and 12.99 percent moisture.⁶

1. Coal Resources of District IV, p. 20,31.

2. Ibid., p. 20,31,37; Fred H. Kay and K. D. White and Others, Coal Resources of District VIII (Danville), Bulletin No. 14 (Urbana: State Geological Survey, Engineering Experiment Station, University of Illinois - United States Bureau of Mines, 1915), p. 9,15,29. Hereinafter referred to as Coal Resources, District VIII.

3. Coal Resources of District VIII, p. 9,50.

4. Ibid., p. 9,15,29,33,50.

5. Ibid., p. 9,50.

6. Ibid., p. 51.

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Limestone deposits are found in the county in a series of formations at a depth of from 530 to 575 feet. These deposits belong to the Niagaran Epoch of the Silurian Period of the Paleozoic Era, and antedate the coal deposits of the Carboniferous Period.¹ Vermilion County limestone formations, at depths much nearer the earth's surface than the Niagaran deposits, are of commercial value and are included in the natural resources and mineral wealth of the county.²

Another mineral with which the county was plentifully supplied, and which constituted a valuable natural resource for the aborigines for centuries before the white man explored and settled here, and for many decades thereafter, was sodium chloride or natural salt held in solution. It was a brackish ooze that lured savage man and wild beast to the Vermilion Salines. Salt was the gold in the iron kettles at the end of the prairie rainbow, that has long since vanished. Yellow corn and black coal supplanted salt and fur as the magnet of man's hunt.

The origin of the soil material which gave Vermilion County its major resource in agriculture is placed in the Glacial Epoch. The underlying bed rock, now exposed in a very few places, served as a foundation for loose, unconsolidated surface material that was laid over it, and contributed only indirectly to the source of the present soil material. During the Glacial Epoch large areas of the earth's surface were subjected to an extremely cold climate, as the result of which great ice sheets were formed. These ice sheets moved southward from centers of accumulation in Labrador, in the Hudson Bay region, and in the northern Rocky Mountains. Six ice sheets or glacier movements are generally regarded as having taken place, each of which covered part of northern United States. Some parts of the country were not covered during each advance. Two have been designated as having covered the area that now constitutes Vermilion County. They were the Illinoian and Early Wisconsin.³ The deposits of rock material left by the glaciers are known as glacial drift, and include all material, stratified or unstratified, of glacial origin whether deposited from the ice itself or by glacial waters.

The deposit left by the Illinoian ice sheet is deeply buried by the more recent deposits of the Early Wisconsin Glacier; consequently only material of the Wisconsin Formation has exerted a direct influence on the character of the soils now found in the county. The Wisconsin advance was the last of the great ice sheets. The Illinoian glaciation probably had an important effect on the agricultural value of the soils of this section, in that it acted as a leveling force, rubbing down the preglacial hills and filling the preglacial valleys.⁴ Glacial till, or unstratified drift, is

1. Coal Resources of District VIII, p. 57.

2. Industrial Survey, prepared by Chamber of Commerce (Danville: Danville-Commercial News, January 3, 1934), p. 10.

3. Vermilion County Soils, p. 10-12.

4. Ibid.

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by far the most important material from which the soils have been formed - a heterogeneous mixture of sand, silt, clay, gravel, and a scattering of large rocks or boulders. Glacial till material contains limestone; laboratory tests show from twenty-five to thirty percent calcium carbonate. Soil forming processes began to change glacial material into soil types through the action of wind and water since the retreat of the last ice sheet.

Soil types of the county are in various stages of youthful period. The character of glacial drift deposits in this area is of more importance from the standpoint of soils than it is in geologically older regions. Vegetation in the materials left by the glacier gradually changes them into soils. The low-lying wet areas are favorable for heavy growth of swamp grasses and accumulation of large amounts of organic matter. Fresh water shell bearing organisms live in some areas. Present day soils in low-lying areas are the muck and black clay loams.

Flora and Fauna

Early settlers found from one to three miles of timber lining the banks of the largest rivers. The vegetation of the prairies was lush, wild life was abundant on open plain and in dense forest. Of the more than half million acres of the county, approximately 109,000 originally were woodland. Scarcely 2,300 acres of the timbered land, not utilized for pasture and for other farm purposes, remain today, though about 38,000 acres of woodland were in use for livestock pasture, according to the Federal Farm Census of 1935.¹ North of Danville is a timbered section known as the Rankin Woods; it is maintained as a forest for natural beauty and not for commercial use. In the Grape Creek region, which is very hilly, is a tract of 80 acres, a part of the Hiram Rose Farm, which is the densest woods in the county. Botanists have classified 84 species of trees, and 74 varieties of wild flowers.

It has been said that it was salt and furs that prompted the settlement of this region.² Then it must have been that there were great numbers of furbearing animals in the deep fringes of the woodland that bordered the rivers and streams that snaked their way through the prairies; and the tall grasses of the plains concealed bounding herds of bison, flocks of timorous wild turkeys, clucking prairie chickens, and fluttering partridges. Wild waterfowl were myriad then as compared to now. Salt-hunger brought instinct-driven animals across miles and miles of undulating prairie lands, through the path-worn forests to the salt springs of the river that had deeply cut its channel with the persistency of time through the red clay bluffs of the morainal ridges. Here red-skinned, buffalo-robed, and feather-bedecked hunters with bows and arrows stalked their prey for meat and fur. It was the law of tooth and claw, beak and talon: the survival of the fittest. Man survived because he was able to control his environment; only those beasts and fowl survived that were able to adapt themselves to man's interests or were pro-

1. Vermilion County Soils, p. 5,6.

2. Jones, Vermilion County, Illinois, p. 48.

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tected by his desire to maintain them as objects of his affection or his continued necessity. Thus has vanished all the wild animal life that roamed the prairies and found shelter in the forests, all but the fish of the streams, some of the wild fowl, and a few of the smaller furbearing and comparatively harmless animals. There are left about 140 species of birds and 31 species of fishes in the streams of the region. All wild life must now be protected by game laws to prevent it from becoming extinct.

Historical Development Before 1776

The Science of History - Man Enters the Record

As with the early animal life, so with the early inhabitants: they have long since gone - disappeared, and have left few monuments and little evidence of their ever having been. Long before his own cultural progress taught him to prize the arts and crafts and cultural potentialities of the natives with whom he traded and whom he dispossessed of the land, the white man in his ignorance and greed obliterated much of the Indian civilization.

History is a set of complex processes, and there is always a temptation to over-simplification so as to present it in a form comprehensible to those not yet aware of all the forces that must combine to form the main stream of history whether of a county, a state, or a nation. There are many tributaries to the main stream of any history; there are many currents and counter currents in its flowing living waters; likewise there are some eddies where there is little change and life only seems to stand still; but change is the one law of life. In written history, there must be movement, growth and a consciousness of the passing of time. In the record of Vermilion County, written by man and preserved in the archives of the county and state, in libraries and in private collections, this law of change is found working, without which there would be no passage of time and no history. In the above reference to the geological record of the region, the operation of this law was noted; but this concerned the physical evolution of man's earthly home. We now pass to a brief study of the early inhabitants of the environment upon which so much of the county's history depends, economically, socially, and politically. In county history it is readily observed that the science of history is concerned with historical life as a whole more than with the political activities of individuals as the motivating force of development.

Early Vermilion Peoples

There is trace and evidence of a people having inhabited the Vermilion region before the tribes who dwelt there at the coming of the white man. It is said by archeologists and ethnologists that the pottery found by the early settlers could be explained in no satisfactory way except to assume it had been used in the work of manufacturing salt from the saline springs of the region.¹ It is not known whether the pottery was actually the work of a

1. Jones, Vermilion County, Illinois, p. 40,41.

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people whose history antedates that of the Indians; but it is definite that the Indians obtained salt from the salt springs, wells, and licks along the tributaries of the Vermilion and Saline rivers of Illinois. It is true that many remains and relics frequently attributed to a prehistoric race called the Mound Builders, were undoubtedly the handiwork of the American Indians.¹ That this region was a part of the so-called Mound Builder's empire, about which much speculation has been advanced, is accepted by scientists. So far little evidence exists that establishes the Mound Builders as a race distinct from the Indians who possessed the country when the white man came here. As to whether the Indians were descendants of the Mound Builders, and as to the origin of both, there are several hypotheses. However, the presence of an "elder man" in the New World may be recorded as an ethnologic fact; but the extent to which, if at all, the Vermilion County area figures in the existence of any but the Indian and the white races is not yet established.

Indians of the Vermilion

The Indians who lived in and claimed the territory that is now known as Vermilion County belonged to one of the confederacies of the Algonquin family called the Miamis, and to the Kickapoo and Pottowatomie tribes of the same family. There was temporary occupancy by scattered bands of Shawnees and Delawares, the latter obtaining their title from the Piankeshaw tribe about 1770 on condition of their settling upon it and assisting them in a war with the Kickapoos.² The Piankeshaws, the Miamis proper, and the Weas, constituted the Miami confederacy. Although the territory known as Vermilion County has been recognized as a part of the "Country of the Illini" (Illinois), it was never claimed by the Illini confederacy, the eastern limit of whose lands was known as the ridge which divides the waters flowing into the Illinois River from the streams which drain into the Wabash River above the headwaters of Saline Creek, and as high up the Illinois as the Des Plaines, extending westward to the Mississippi River and reaching northward to the debatable ground between the Illinois, Chippewas, Winnebagoes, Sacs, and Foxes.³

This same ridge was the western limit of the country of the Miamis.⁴ It has been established that the earliest Indian proprietors of the territory were the Piankeshaw tribe of the Miami confederacy. The Miami name

1. Hiram W. Beckwith, History of Vermilion County (Chicago: H. H. Hill and Company, 1879), p. 195, 196. Hereinafter referred to as History of Vermilion County.
2. Ibid., p. 178. Beckwith quotes a passage from Dawson's life of General William Henry Harrison, which contains the information as to how the Delawares obtained title to this land.
3. The Illini confederacy, a subdivision of the Algonquin family and without doubt, according to General William Henry Harrison, also related to the Miami nation, included the subdivision tribes of Cahokia, Kaskaskia, Peoria, Michagamea, Moingwena, and Tamaroa.
4. Jones, Vermilion County, Illinois, p. 14, 15.

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for the river, known as the Vermilion, was Piankeshaw; so it may be that the tribe living along the Vermilion was so called from the name of the river, rather than the river being given the name of the tribe. When the French came to the Wabash River region, the Piankeshaws were found on both sides of the river from the Vermilion down to the Ohio and westward into Illinois to the ridge which divides the tributaries of the Wabash from those of the Illinois.¹ At the confluence of the North Fork and the Big Vermilion, the present site of Danville, was the important Indian village of Piankeshaw. Abundant proof of this exists in the records and documents of the early French explorers and settlers, the records of conquest by the British, and the memoirs and reports of adventurers and officials of colonial governments and of the United States. Whether Piankeshaw in the Indian language meant red, or not, is not known; nevertheless, it was used by the Miamis and designated both the river and the village of that name. The Indian name was not universally used. In early records the name given to the river was Vermilion, so called for the fine red earth found along the river bluffs in the shales overlaying the outcroppings of the coal veins. The Indians used the red earth to paint themselves. The name of the Indian village in time came to be attached to the French name of the river: "Piankeshaw on the Riviere du Vermilion." In the early nineteenth century the river was marked on a map as the Red River. About the same time some geographers and American writers tried to give it the name "Rejoicing," but the designation given by the French, together with their spelling, remains.

The Kickapoo and Pottowatomic Indian tribes, in the middle of the eighteenth century, were under pressure of the ever restless and active Sioux, who dwelt to the north of the Illinois; and because of this, and also because of the diminution of their hunting grounds, they pushed their way from the north into the lands possessed by the Miamis. The current of emigration of the tribes east of the Mississippi River at this time was from the north to the south. The Pottowatomies notified the Miamis that they intended to settle upon the beautiful land watered by the Wabash River and its tributaries. They made no pretensions to a right of title to the country, and gave only the excuse that they were tired of eating fish and wanted meat.² They came, and bore down on the Piankeshaws and occupied impudently and by sheer force of numbers, rather than by force of arms, a large portion of the Miami territory. They established numerous villages along the banks of the Wabash and its tributaries. They were called squatters by other tribes in the region.

The Kickapoos and Mascoutins; who were of the same stock as the Fox Indians, were also moving south and eastward to avoid destructive conflicts with the fierce Sioux. The Wabash country seemed to be a place of security from the Sioux. The Mascoutins went to the lower Wabash; but were not followed by the Kickapoos, who remained on the upper Wabash and Vermilion rivers. The former soon returned north, and the French effected a reconcilia-

1. Jones, Vermilion County, Illinois, p. 24,25; Beckwith, History of Vermilion County, p. 124.

2. Beckwith, History of Vermilion County, p. 146.

tion with the Sioux and for a time the Mascoutins were back again among the Foxes and Kickapoos. By some the Kickapoos and Mascoutins were regarded as the same tribe largely because they were always united in interests.¹ The Kickapoos were a decidedly predatory tribe. Between the years 1788 and 1796, war parties from the Kickapoo villages kept the settlements in Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois in a state of continual alarm. The Kickapoos were often accompanied by the Pottowatomies in their depredations on the white settlements. The two tribes, each with more or less of the same predatory habits, having been forced by other tribes into lands possessed by the Miami confederacy, established themselves in the valleys of the Wabash and tributary rivers. They agreed that the Wabash River should be the dividing line between themselves and the Miamis. The Pottowatomies and the Kickapoos were to occupy the land on the north and west sides of the river, leaving the east or south side for the Miamis.² By this time the Piankeshaws of the Miami confederacy were unable to maintain their rights before the intruders, and were forced to accept this division of the Wabash dominion. These squatters and guerrillas of the plains and forests established villages of mixed people in the Wabash country. They were much attached to the lands along the Vermilion River.

The two other tribes that figured in the Indian occupation of the Vermilion country were the Shawnees and the Delawares; they, too, were branches of the Algonquin family and had suffered greatly from the ancient enemy of that family, the Iroquois, who waged an unremitting war upon them. The Shawnees in order to escape further molestation left their lands on the shores of the Great Lakes east of Cleveland, Ohio, and traveled south: some of their bands penetrated into the extreme southern states. They were known as the "bedouins of the wilderness."³ Sometime before the Revolutionary War they established a village on the Ohio River a few miles below the mouth of the Wabash at a place which now bears their name (Shawneetown). They were driven from Florida by the Creek and Seminole tribes and they then appealed to the Miamis and Delawares for protection.⁴ Remnants of this tribe dwelt in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania after their dispersion by the Iroquois. Chief Tecumseh belonged to the Kiskapooceke subtribe, which was one of the four groups into which the Shawnees were divided.⁵

The Delawares, who were regarded with the utmost respect and veneration by other Algonquin tribes, were subjugated and made as women by the Iroquois; they were prohibited from making war and were placed under the sovereignty of the Iroquois, according to authorities on Indian affairs. They had been driven westward and across the Alleghenies after the Quakers of Pennsylvania had obtained possession by treaty and purchase of the greater por-

1. Beckwith, History of Vermilion County, p. 156-59.

2. Ibid., p. 148, 162, 163; Jones, Vermilion County, Illinois, p. 19.

3. Beckwith, History of Vermilion County, p. 170, 171.

4. Ibid., p. 171.

5. Ibid., p. 174.

-tion of their lands. They obtained possession of lands in the Wabash River country by agreeing to settle on land held by the Piankeshaws in return for assistance against the Kickapoos, who were pressing hard upon the Piankeshaws.¹ Title to the tract of land held by the Delewares was later disputed by the doners, who claimed that while they had granted the Delawares the right of occupancy, they had never conveyed the right of sovereignty of the land in question.²

The Indian's Place in American History

This elementary sketch of early Indian occupation of the Vermilion region is merely a guide for what otherwise might be a confusing account of involved tribal movements. Primitive civilizations follow no orderly course; and Indian history did not pursue a straight line of development, or of orderly chronological unfolding. Because of many factors that were natural to primitive Indian culture, and because of the scores of tribes, clans, and confederacies that were involved, Indian history is a highly confusing record. Added to this maze of conflicting interests and nomadic movements of free peoples, were the clashing ambitions of the four groups of conquerors of the aborigines - the Spanish, the French, the English, and the United States Americans, which further complicated the record. Any attempt to clarify Indian history and to confine it to the limits of a county history must of necessity fit the principal features of local development into the broad outlines of a great, tragic, and thrilling drama. American Indian history is a record of treachery, greed, crime, betrayal, and shame on the part of both the conquered and the conqueror. The white man with the Bible, gunpowder, and whisky was the conqueror.

American literature is replete with the gory and romantic record of every phase of the conquest of a continent, and the forceful dispossession of its natural, if savage and semisavage, owners. Here is noted only how the early inhabitants of a locality, later to be known as Vermilion County, fitted into the development of New World history. The tribes mentioned above were those whose members constituted the human element of Old Vermilion's early history before the county was organized. Into the Indian's civilization came the Spanish conquistador, the French cavalier, and coureurs de bois, the English nobleman and tradesman, the priest-missionary, the Puritan minister, and finally the colonial precursor of the United States. Driven, hunted and evangelized, bribed, robbed and "improved," the Indian succumbed to the white man's vices more than he adopted his virtues during the long years of the conquest of North America by the Europeans and their American descendants.

Notwithstanding the fact that the pattern of Indian civilization was somewhat modified by the contact the aborigines had with the white

1. Beckwith, History of Vermilion County, p. 178.
2. This formula for giving came to be known as "Indian giving," or the right to use "without title."

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man from Europe, they resisted change as few primitive peoples have. In the main they were not a people who imitated those with a higher level of cultural attainment; subjugation meant breaking their will; they would not be enslaved. The study of sociology at this time in the Western world had not made sufficient progress to develop a technique of racial relations and cultural penetration that would have enabled the white man to conquer a continent without subjugating its native population. Civilized nations have not yet learned this art to a degree that enables them to utilize the potentialities of less privileged races as an economic and cultural asset.¹

The Coming of the French to the Vermilion

The exploration and settlement of the Vermilion country by the white man followed the penetration of French fur traders, known as *coureurs de bois* (runners of the forests), missionaries, and gentleman adventurers into the region south and west of the Great Lakes.² At least four forces operated in the expansion of the French westward from the St. Lawrence River valley. These were: enlargement of the region for fur trading with the Indians, acquisition of new lands for France, missionary zeal in converting the Indians to the Catholic faith, and rivalry between groups of religious orders. The priests representing these orders were indefatigable explorers, men of science, often politically minded in behalf of France and the missions and colonies they founded, and above all zealous in the work of building up a great Christian empire.³ The yearly reports of these priests and of the missions they established, and the journals and memoirs which some of them recorded yield a great amount of material for the student of history. Government documents on colonial affairs and the letters, inventories, and authorizations of agents of the great fur companies provide another source of historical data. They help make clear how a continent was explored and settled; and reveal the confusing and conflicting elements that entered into its conquest, which at this late and far removed day seems to have been free from mundane motivations.

The Jesuit fathers looked westward for new mission fields as soon as it was evident that temporal interests and civil power had gained ascendancy in the French colonization of eastern New France (Canada). They had seen their mission fields transformed into colonies; and they dreaded the fur traders for several reasons not pertinent to relate in this sketch. Political intrigues of civil governors and speculations in fur trading on the part of rivals in the business produced strains in relationships which

1. Robert Gessner, Massacre, A Survey of Today's American Indian (New York: Jonathan Cape and Harrison Smith, 1931), p. 197-347, 405-18
2. Francis Parkman, LaSalle and the Discovery of the Great West (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1922), p. 3-119 (hereinafter referred to as LaSalle and the Great West); Jones, Vermilion County, Illinois, p. 5-48; Beckwith, History of Vermilion County, p. 37-215; Thomas Falconer, On the Discovery of the Mississippi (London: Samuel Clarke, 1844), p. 5-30.
3. *Ibid.*

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caused the Jesuits to redouble their solicitude for the missions they had established to the west in the Great Lakes region. The Sulpicians of the Seminary of St. Sulpice at Montreal, the Franciscans, and the Recollects were all zealous to conquer new domains for the Faith; but they were rivals in their missionary activities which inevitably were connected with explorations and trading with the Indians. Documented history and abundant archival material treat extensively of the conflicts and jealousies engendered amid the shifting of temporal interests of gentleman adventurers and fortune hunters in the speculations of the fur trade and the growing power of civil government.¹

As early as 1635 or '38, Jean Nicollet, an interpreter who had been some twenty years in Canada and had become an Indian in his habits, was sent from Quebec as an ambassador to the Winnebago Indians living near the head of Green Bay on Lake Michigan. History records that Nicollet learned then of the "great water" which he mistook for the sea; whereas, it was the Mississippi River of which his Indian guides spoke. A little later French Jesuits and fur traders pushed deeper into the wilderness of the northern lakes; and in time Father Claude Allouez was sent to establish a mission at Green Bay. He was followed by Father Jacques Marquette who later was chosen by Governor Frontenac of New France to accompany Louis Jolliet on the expedition organized to discover the Mississippi River. Marquette is said to have been chosen for the expedition because of the information he had already obtained from the Indians relating to the country to be explored.²

Jolliet, a young man, born in Canada and educated by the Jesuits, had been sent to discover and explore the copper mines of the Lake Superior region. He failed in the attempt, but on his return to Quebec he met Rone Robert Cavelier, better known as Sieur de la Salle, and the Sulpicians who jointly had embarked on an enterprise of exploration and discovery. The meeting took place at the head of Lake Ontario. Jolliet showed the priests and LaSalle a map which he had made of the upper lakes he had visited, and gave them a copy of it, telling them that the Pottowatomie Indians and other tribes had great need of spiritual succor. LaSalle in vain reminded them that the Jesuits had preoccuioied the field and would regard them as intruders. The Sulpicians later learned that LaSalle's predictions had been well founded.³ Following the half century of exploration and missionary activity since Nicollet went among the Winnebagos, Jean Talon, the Intendant of New France during the governorship of Daniel Remy, Sieur de Courcelles, dispatched Daumont de Saint-Lusson to search for copper mines on Lake Superior, and at the same time take formal possession of the whole interior for the King of France and to proclaim the Indian nations to be under the protection of the King.⁴ Accompanied by Nicolas Perrot, an in-

1. Parkman, LaSalle and the Great West.

2. Beckwith, History of Vermilion County, p. 39,40; Parkman, LaSalle and the Great West, p. 3-5,56-81.

3. Parkman, LaSalle and the Great West, p. 23,24,27.

4. Ibid., p. 49.

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terpreter and a conspicuous Canadian voyageur of the time, Saint-Lusson wintered at the Manitoulin Islands and from there sent messages to the tribes of the north to meet the deputy of the governor at Sault Ste. Marie in the following spring of 1671. The grand council was held, and Saint-Lusson proclaimed all the lands that had been discovered and those that were to be discovered thereafter to be the possession of "the Most High, Mighty, and Redoubted Monarch, Louis, Fourteenth of that name, Most Christian King of France and Navarre." The Indians were declared to be the vassals of his Majesty the King. So passed the Northwest into the possession of France.

Intendant Talon was a faithful servant of the King, and was full of projects for the expansion of New France and the development of industry. He meant to occupy the interior of the continent and to control the rivers which were its only highways. The interior was still an unknown world. Talon planned to explore it; and to that end he availed himself of Jesuits, officers, fur traders, and enterprising schemers like LaSalle. Talon was determined to find the "great river," the Mississippi, the mysterious stream of which the Indians spoke. He would learn whether it would lead to Mexico, Japan, or China. The Jesuits were eager to discover it. Talon made choice of Louis Jolliet to carry out the plan of discovery and exploration; but before it was undertaken the Intendant and Governor Sieur de Courcelles returned to France. The new governor, Louis de Baude, Count de Frontenac, accepted the recommendation of Talon, and Jolliet was appointed to lead the expedition which was to discover the Mississippi River for the French.

Jolliet had resolved in his young manhood to be a priest, and he received the tonsure and minor orders at the age of seventeen. Though he renounced the priesthood he retained his loyalty to the Jesuits. One of their number, Father Jacques Marquette, was chosen to accompany him. In June, 1673, Jolliet and Marquette steered their canoes from the currents of the Wisconsin River into the eddies of the Mississippi; they voyaged past the mouths of the Illinois, the Missouri, and the Ohio rivers and as far south as the Arkansas River before they retraced their course and returned to the mouth of the Illinois which they ascended and came finally to the Lake of Illinois (Michigan). Here we leave the discoverers, for their later exploits do not particularly concern the history of the county, the background of which is here sketched.

Historically speaking, Vermilion County, being a part of the Wabash River valley, is more concerned with the expeditions and discoveries of LaSalle than with those of his rival explorers. However, there is little authentic record to justify the claim occasionally made that LaSalle paddled his canoe down the Wabash River in 1669-70. Nevertheless, the discoveries by LaSalle made the Wabash Valley a part of the domain of New France. LaSalle had dreamed of a western passage to China and nursed vague schemes of western discovery. He had come to New France, ambitious, fearless, a cultivated and refined gentleman, who could shine in the palace of a king as well as in the red man's wigwam. He had an elder brother in Canada, the Abbe Cavelier, a priest of St. Sulpice. LaSalle was the name of an estate near Rouen, France, belonging to the Caveliers, a wealthy family that lived more like nobles than like burghers. The name was used by the family to

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designate the son, according to a custom of the period. LaSalle was always an earnest Catholic, and in his early life he entered the Society of Jesus. It is said that he taught for a time in a Jesuit school, and that he parted company with the Jesuits on good terms, and with a reputation for excellent acquirements and unimpeachable morals. He was a man of intense longing for action and achievement. His was a positive nature that was coupled with far-seeing prudence and an inflexible character. He became a feudal proprietor on an estate at La Chine above the great rapids and a short distance above Montreal, having received his lands from the Seminary of St. Sulpice.¹

Mention was made above of LaSalle's connection with the Sulpicians when engaged on an expedition that took him into the valley of the Ohio River, which many disinterested historians credit him with having discovered. However, credibility of LaSalle's Ohio exploration is obscured in controversy. It should be noted that his rival explorer, Louis Jolliet, credited him with having explored the Ohio.² The explorer seems to have become convinced as the result of his expeditions west and south of the Great Lakes that the Mississippi River flowed not into the Pacific Ocean or the Gulf of California, but into the Gulf of Mexico. He wanted to call into being the latent riches of the Great West. He believed that a stream of wealth could be made to pour into Canada from the West that otherwise would enrich the enemies of France, if the country were not encircled with fortified posts to guard against the English on the east and the Spaniards on the south. He was engaged in a large and lucrative fur trade and was favored by Governor Frontenac, who was said to have shared in the profits of the trade, and is known to have assisted LaSalle in financing his expeditions of exploration and discovery.³ LaSalle sought a monopoly of the trade in the Ohio and Mississippi river valleys. He became an uncompromising rival of the Jesuits for control of the West.

Louis XIV, King of France, in 1678 raised him to the rank of an untitled noble and granted him a patent "to labor at the discovery of western parts of New France; and for the execution of this enterprise, to build forts at such places as you may think necessary." LaSalle was to defray the costs of his undertakings and was not to trade with the savages called Ottawas, or with other tribes who brought their peltries to Montreal. He was granted the sole right of trade in buffalo hides. LaSalle represented

1. Parkman, LaSalle and the Great West, p. 7-10, 83, 84; Charles H. Bartlett and Richard Lyon, LaSalle in the Valley of the St. Joseph (South Bend: Tribune Printing Company, 1899), p. 17-22, 65; Beckwith, History of Vermilion County, p. 55.
2. Parkman, LaSalle and the Great West, p. 24-33; Jean Delanglez, S.J., Some LaSalle Journeys (Chicago: Institute of Jesuit History, 1938), p. 3-39.
3. Parkman, LaSalle and the Great West, p. 126, 127.

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an entirely different concept of exploration and settlement than that exemplified by the Jesuit missionary-explorer; he was more of the prototype of the modern commercialist seeking new markets and raw materials. He still held to his plan for a commercial and industrial colony, and for opening a trade route to the Gulf of Mexico down the Mississippi River and its branches. Frontenac was an opponent of the Jesuits and gave support to LaSalle, his partisan and protege.¹

At once LaSalle prepared to execute his plan of exploration, discovery and settlement. In all this he had associated with him from the time of his departure from France, whither he had gone for the approval of the king, one Henry de Tonti, an Italian who had lost one hand while participating in the Sicilian wars. Tonti became LaSalle's companion and lieutenant, and was prominently associated with explorations in this part of America. In Canada the party was joined by three Franciscan missionaries whose names are also closely associated with LaSalle in these years of his journeyings; they were the three Flemish friars, Fathers Louis Hennepin, Zenobe Membre and Gabriel Robourde. It is said that LaSalle was rarely without a missionary in his work of exploration. From 1679 to 1682 when the explorer and his party navigated the Mississippi River from the country of the Illinois to its mouth, LaSalle was busy executing his program for the ultimate colonization of the lands in the vast basin of the Mississippi River from its frozen northern springs to the sultry borders of the Gulf. It was almost ten years after Jolliet and Marquette descended the Mississippi River to the mouth of the Arkansas, that LaSalle bestowed the name of Louisiana on the new domain of the French crown. It stretched from the Alleghenies to the Rocky Mountains; from the Rio Grande and the Gulf to the farthest springs of the Missouri.²

Although this performance did not end the explorations of LaSalle in the New World, it provided the basis for the French possession of the region of Vermilion County. Robert Cavelier de LaSalle is left here "in history like a statue cast in iron . . . a stern, sad figure . . . an object of human interest and pity."³ He was the victim of great calumnies and was often surrounded by malicious foes, yet he was appraised as the best specimen of manhood that France ever sent to the St. Lawrence.⁴

Vermilion County owes its discovery to the French, whether as a part of the state of Illinois or as a part of the Wabash River valley, and it was made known to the civilized world through the records of the French government. New France extended from Quebec to New Orleans, as the land is known today, and it became necessary to divide it for administrative purposes, so two provinces were formed. The northern province was that of Canada,

1. Parkman, LaSalle and the Great West, p. 99-104, 124-26.

2. Ibid., p. 308, 309.

3. Ibid., p. 342.

4. Bartlett and Lyon, LaSalle in the Valley of the St. Joseph, p. 22.

with the capital at Quebec, and the southern province was that of Louisiana, with its capital at New Orleans. At one time, prior to 1745, the dividing line ran diagonally across what is now Vermilion County; it began on the Wabash at the mouth of the Vermilion River and followed the course of the Vermilion northwest, thence in the same direction to Fort St. Louis, the site now known as Starved Rock in LaSalle County, Illinois. The seat of local government of the Canadian Province was Montreal, and the seat of local government of the Louisiana Province was at Fort Chartres on the Mississippi River. Vermilion County as now known was cut by the dividing line into two nearly equal parts.¹

The English Appear

The French were not long permitted exclusively to enjoy the enormous profits from the trade in furs. Dutch and English traders of New York were urging the Iroquois Indians to attack the western tribes with the object of gaining through their conquest the fur trade of the interior, and diverting it from Montreal to Albany. The Iroquois were friendly with the English and Dutch, and hostile to the French and the tribes of the Algonquin Indians. The English set their allies, the Iroquois, upon the tribes of the Illinois. The Indians were used as pawns in the stern commercial game of wresting a continent from the control of the French. The English not only disputed the right of the French to the fur trade, but denied their title to the valley of the Mississippi, which lay west of the American colonies on the Atlantic coast. The grants from the British crown conveyed to the chartered proprietors all of the country lying between certain parallels of latitude according to the location of the several grants, and extending westward to the South Sea, as the Pacific Ocean was then called. Seeing the weakness of such a claim to vast tracts of country, upon which no Englishman had ever set his foot, the chartered proprietors obtained deeds of cession from the Iroquois Indians - the dominant Indian nation east of the Mississippi - who claimed all the country between the Alleghenies and the Mississippi by conquest from the Algonquin tribes who occupied it.²

From the posts and forts set up by the French at various points, encircling the territory north of the Ohio, east of the Mississippi, and south of the Great Lakes, the coureurs de bois penetrated into the interior of the "Northwest Territory," as the region later was known. The fur trade was extended by them to the most distant tribes. Stimulated by a desire for blankets, cotton goods, knives, hatchets, kettles, ribbons, needles, thread, trinkets, whiskey, and firearms, the Indians began a war on the wild animals in earnest. The destruction of wild life for skins and furs, from this period forward, was wanton and so extensive that for three generations the Indians in many localities became so improvident that they could scarcely find game enough for their own subsistence. These traders penetrated far beyond the reach of the birchbark canoe; and they became

1. Jones, Vermilion County, Illinois, p. 11,32,33.
2. Beckwith, History of Vermilion County, p. 223.

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most useful to the merchants engaged in fur trade.¹ They exerted great influence over the Indians, to whose mode of life they readily adapted themselves. The foundation of some large American, English, and French fortunes were laid in the fur trade which these *courreurs de bois* constantly fed from the far interior of the great American wilderness. The names of some of these fur trading companies are familiar to students of the settlement period of American history.

Military posts at the present site of Detroit, on the Maumee River at the present site of Ft. Wayne, on the St. Joseph at Lake Illinois (Michigan), at Vincennes on the Wabash, at Fort St. Louis on the Illinois, and at Fort Chartres on the Mississippi were some of the advance trading stations where commercial relations with the Indians were conducted, and from where the traders went out on their journeys into the interior. It was inevitable that in time these traders should find their way to the saline springs on the Vermilion; not only did they go there to obtain supplies of salt for garrisons at the forts, but the salt springs were the site of a large Indian settlement where was conducted the barter for furs. The characteristic policy of the French was to cultivate among the Indians a desire for European goods and thus render the savages dependent upon them. The policy was not to force, but to lead the natives into subjection; the French flattered them, asking their advice, bestowing upon them presents, and, above all, showed them respect and deference. The French gained the good will of the savages in a degree that no other European nation ever equaled. However, in the struggle to determine who should be master of the fur trade, the French cared as little for their Indian allies as the British and the Americans did for theirs.²

By 1702 the French had established the military post at Vincennes, about one hundred miles south of where the Vermilion empties into the Wabash River.³ As previously stated when the French first explored the Wabash River, they found the Piankeshaw Indians in possession of the land on either side of the river from its mouth to the Vermilion tributary. These Indians of the Miami confederacy traded and fought with or against the French and the English as their interests or passions inclined. They sought a better quality of goods at cheaper rates and also a higher price for their furs, and therefore were able to maintain a tribal integrity and independence for a longer period of time than many other tribes. They were bold and independent and did not respond acceptably to missionary work. By the time the English had wrested the country from the control of the French, and the Americans in turn had taken it over from the English, the Pianke-

1. Beckwith, History of Vermilion County, p. 208-22.

2. *Ibid.*, p. 216, 235, 236.

3. There is considerable dispute about this date; some authorities assert the post was founded as late as 1742. When the present courthouse at Vincennes was erected, all authorities on the subject were carefully examined, and 1702 was fixed upon as the correct date. It was accordingly engraved on the cornerstone of the courthouse.

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shaws were forced by the predatory Pottowatomies and Kickapoos, to the east side of the Wabash.¹

The Pottowatomies were unswerving in their loyalty to the French as long as they had possession of the Northwest. Afterwards they fought with the British during the Revolutionary War, and also in the War of 1812. The Kickapoos were not inclined to receive religious instructions from the early missionaries,² though as late as 1831 a mixed band of Kickapoos and Pottowatomies, who resided on the Vermilion River and its tributaries, became Christianized under instructions of the Indian preacher, Kaennekuck, a reformed drunkard who exerted a remarkable influence over his people.³ The Kickapoos assisted neither the French nor the English in their intrigues for the control of the fur trade, or in the contest for the territory of the Northwest. Later their attitude toward the Americans was much the same as toward the Europeans.⁴

It would seem from records and primary source material that no claim had ever been made to the Vermilion County region by any other tribe than the Piankeshaws until about 1770 when, as before stated, the Delawares were granted lands in the Wabash River valley. The Piankeshaws knew of the white man before the more aggressive tribes of their own race forced them into a humiliating surrender of their Vermilion lands, their saline springs and good hunting and fishing grounds. M. De Longueill, the French commandant at Detroit, reported in 1752 to his superior officer at Quebec that prior to 1750, French traders were established on the Vermilion and that English traders persisted in trading there, even though their predecessors had been driven off two years before.⁵ Colonel George Croghan, an English agent, and Indian trader, and a man in whom many Indians had confidence, kept a journal in which it was recorded that he traveled in 1765 through the meadow hunting grounds of the Piankeshaw Indians on the Vermilion River. Croghan had been taken captive by some Kickapoo Indians near the site of Shawneetown and was brought by them to Vincennes and thence through what is now Crawford, Edgar, and Vermilion counties to the villages of the Kickapoos on the west bank of the Wabash River.⁶ This was at the close of the period of French possession of the Mississippi Valley and during the time of transition to British control.

Little is known of the French settlements of the Northwest Territory until about 1744 when the English began to contest the right of the French to hold the region. A struggle for colonial expansion ensued. While the English and French nations were engaged in wars beyond the seas, their colonial governments in the New World waged parallel wars in behalf of their parent countries. These conflicts were known as the intercolonial

1. Jones, Vermilion County, Illinois, p. 15,19.
2. Ibid., p. 17.
3. Beckwith, History of Vermilion County, p. 168.
4. Ibid., p. 161,162.
5. Jones, Vermilion County, Illinois, p. 31.
6. See p. 25, (The Conspiracy of Pontiac).

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wars, which ended in 1763 with the Peace of Paris of the French and Indian War. The French had adapted themselves to the ways of the Indians; for the most part they had been kind and conciliatory, and had shared the Indians' interests. The Indians were suspicious of the British, who had been the foe of their friends. The English were reserved and selfish, and wanted the land exclusively for themselves. Nevertheless, they could offer their goods to the Indians at greatly reduced prices, and often they successfully played one tribe against another. Intrigue and conspiracy after the manner of the diplomacy of modern nations were engaged in by agents of both the French and British colonial governments. Indian nations and tribes were used then as small nations of the present era are now used by big nations to maintain a balance of power on behalf of those countries in control of markets, raw materials, and trade privileges supported by large international credits. Though on a smaller scale and under different circumstances, what happened in the wilds and on the frontier settlements of North America in the eighteenth century was much the same as what is taking place in the early twentieth century on a world scale between dominant powers for a redivision of world resources in raw materials and markets.

France Loses an Empire in the New World

The British often caused disaffection among certain Indian tribes toward their old friends, the French. At first the French protested, but without the desired effect. Their demands were met with evasions and delays. At last they determined on summary measures: an order was issued to the commandants of the various posts on Lake Erie, the Ohio, and Wabash rivers to seize all English traders found west of the Alleghenies. In pursuance of this order four English traders were captured on the Vermilion of the Wabash; they were sent to Canada. Other traders dealing with the Indians in other localities were likewise seized.¹ However, this did not prevent other Englishmen from going to the Vermilion. Provocative situations were created between the Piankeshaws and their old friends; the Indians became completely estranged from the French, and large numbers withdrew from the Wabash and retired to the Big Miami where they established a village to be near the English traders. Colonel George Croghan and other agents of the English did what they could to intensify the animosity of the Piankeshaws against the French.² It should be remembered that the Potowatomies and Kickapoos at this time were pressing hard on the Piankeshaws, which was an additional cause for their departure from the Vermilion region, especially since the Potowatomies were loyal to the French, and the Kickapoos were loyal to neither the French nor the English.

The war for the fur trade in the New World expanded into a struggle for empire in which the French were forced to yield; the Gallic rule came to an end in North America except for two small islands south of Newfoundland. Control of the New World passed into the hands of the

1. Beckwith, History of Vermilion County, p. 217, 218.

2. Ibid., p. 216, 222.

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British and Spanish crowns. The traits that disqualified the Gauls as successful colonists gave them preeminent advantage over the Anglo-Saxons in the influence they exerted over the Indians. The French did not want their lands; they fraternized with them, adopted their ways, and flattered and pleased them. The Anglo-Saxons coveted their lands and at once sought deeds and cessions of territory, and began crowding the Indians out of the country.¹ The fears of the Jesuit Fathers were at last realized; they had significantly opposed the trading practices and methods of settlement that would dispossess the Indian of his rights and make him a foreigner in his own land.

England's Hold on the Northwest Temporary

Under the terms of the Treaty of Paris, February 10, 1763, all Canada and the other French territory east of the Mississippi were ceded to the British crown, and the valley of the Ohio was reserved with various adjacent lands as a domain where the Indians were to have exclusive possession and control. These terms of the treaty, however, were never published to the Indians or enforced against white infiltration.² Fearing the growth of the spirit of independence among the colonists along the eastern seaboard, King George III issued the Proclamation Line in 1763 in which he forbade his colonial subjects from settling beyond the sources of the rivers which empty into the Atlantic Ocean. The interior of virgin forests and fertile prairie was proclaimed Indian country in which the colonists might not intrude.³ The inhabitants of Vincennes were commanded to abandon their settlements and join some of the eastern English colonies. Strong opposition led to a change of policy on the part of Great Britain. In 1773 the British Parliament passed an act extending the boundary of Quebec so as to include the territory lying within the present states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan. It was evident that the British crown wished to colonize the Northwest with settlers either direct from England or from Canada where the independence movement was not strong or did not exist.⁴

Nevertheless, hardy frontiersmen from Virginia, Pennsylvania, and the Carolinas remembered that this vast western empire had been granted to the colonists in their first royal charters. From the start they flouted the king's Proclamation Line, confident that he was too far away to prevent their steady westward progress. Pioneers from the hinterland of Pennsylvania, Virginia, and the Carolinas began to spread through the dense forests of the Ohio, the Cumberland, and the Tennessee valleys.

1. Beckwith, History of Vermilion County, p. 232, 233.
2. P. T. Hansard, "Definitive Treaty," The Parliamentary History of England (London, 1813), XV, 1291-1303. Hereinafter referred to as Parliamentary History.
3. Joel D. Steele and Esther B. Steele, Barnes' School History of the United States, A Revision of a Brief History of the United States (Cincinnati: American Book Company, 1903), p. 100.
4. Hansard, Parliamentary History, XV, 1291-1303.

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New settlements were rapidly projected and established, and the promise of a large trade was speedily fulfilled.

The British were successful colonizers and soon a conflict arose between the English colonists from Canada and the pioneers from the eastern states. The colonists from the states came on, pushing farther back the Indians who at times inflicted terrible revenge on the settlers with bloody butcherings and scalpings. The English sought to align the Indians on their side of the developing conflict by promises and contracts with the natives, who were generally outwitted. However, they did combine with the British forces when in the War for Independence the Colonial government sought to conquer the Northwest.

When the English began to take possession of the land from the French, they promised religious freedom to all Catholics and granted the right to French settlers to leave the country with all their effects if they wished, or to remain with the privileges of Englishmen.¹ The English made friends with the French in an effort to hold them to the British crown, especially in the province of Quebec. In consequence of this liberal policy pursued by the British government toward the French settlers of the West, the French were officially disposed to favor England in the war which followed between the British colonies and the home country; but the early alliance between France and the colonies soon brought them to the side of the struggle for independence.

Emigration to the western lands was encouraged by the Governor of Virginia. Land companies were organized and settlements were established between the Alleghenies and the Ohio River, and western land speculators became active in Illinois and on the Wabash River. Among the companies that bartered with the Indians were the Illinois, the Vandalia, and the Wabash Land companies. Extensive schemes for the colonization of the West were frustrated by the breaking out of the Revolution. Every post of importance in the West was held by the English at the outbreak of the War for Independence.

The government under British rule was very unsettled and never attained a high degree of effective control over the region. Authority was vested in the Lords Commissioners of the Council of Trade and Plantations, or Lords of Trade, as it was sometimes designated. Kaskaskia, the French town located near the mouth of the river of that name, was the seat of government for the region. Fort Chartres was abandoned, and Fort Gage at Kaskaskia was garrisoned instead.² Factionalism and uncertainty reigned throughout the decade and a half of British rule in this western country; however, the English through well selected agents were able to draw the Indians over to their side by a newly adopted policy of

1. J. A. Battle and Henry C. Niles, County of Douglas, Illinois (Chicago: F. A. Battey & Company, 1884), Part III, p. 37.
2. Jones, Vermilion County, Illinois, p. 33; Beckwith, History of Vermilion County, p. 234-45.

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diplomacy and conciliation. From their westward posts at Detroit, Vincennes, and Kaskaskia, they incited the natives against the frontier settlements, and from these posts supplied native war parties with guns and ammunition.¹ For more than one hundred years the French had held authority over this region; they had come here for beaver skins and peltries and to Christianize the natives. The English came for land and held the country as their own for only a decade and a half.

The Conspiracy of Pontiac

The conspiracy of Pontiac, the able and daring chief of the Ottawas, was an outgrowth of the British expansion in the territory west of the Alleghenies and north of the Ohio. Chief Pontiac undertook to reclaim and hold the land for the red man by organizing all the Indians of the Northwest. Pontiac was a man of great discernment and saw the inevitable result of the coming of the British. The French and Indian War had not yet been concluded by the Peace of Paris, but Canada had been surrendered to the British and with it the region west of the Alleghenies. The French traders encouraged Pontiac. The war lasted from 1761 to 1765; and at last the Indians, disagreeing among themselves, deserted the alliance and made a treaty, with Pontiac's sanction, surrendering the disputed territory to the accredited agent of the British, Colonel George Croghan. This agent had been made a prisoner by a band of Kickapoo and Mascoutin Indians whose chiefs were enroute to meet with him in a conference, the object of which was to settle the dispute. It was at this time that Croghan traversed the Vermilion prairie lands and visited the village of the Piankeshaw tribe on that river.² After the signing of the treaty, Pontiac, still revengeful, fled to the hunting grounds of the Illinois. He was killed at Cahokia in 1769 by a Kaskaskia Indian who had been bribed with a barrel of rum by an English merchant named Williamson.³

England Yields to Americans

The British power over the territory of the Northwest was ended in 1779 as the result of an expedition of conquest organized and executed by Colonel George Rogers Clark (afterwards General Clark), a Virginia frontiersman who had gone to Kentucky (then a part of Virginia) as a surveyor and later assumed control of Kentucky's forces against the incursions of the Indians from north of the Ohio River. This was before the War for Independence was successfully consummated by the Treaty of Paris, in 1783, and two years before the surrender of the English commander, General Cornwallis, at Yorktown, October 19, 1781. Clark was empowered by Governor Patrick Henry and the General Assembly of Virginia to undertake the capture of the British posts north of the Ohio, whither Lieutenant-Governor

1. Jones, Vermilion County, Illinois, p. 33; Beckwith, History of Vermilion County, p. 234-45.
2. Beckwith, History of Vermilion County, p. 234-44.
3. Ibid., p. 244.

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Henry Hamilton of Detroit had been sent to drive out the American settlers Clark and his men, called "Long Knives," from Virginia and Kentucky (less than two hundred in number) captured Kaskaskia and Cahokia in 1778 without a struggle. The inhabitants of these settlements readily took the oath of allegiance to Virginia, and the Illinois country passed forever from the formal control of England.¹ Clark, who was later called the "Virginia Hannibal," was concerned over the possession of Post Vincennes on the Wabash River; and he arranged with Father Gibault of Kaskaskia, the French Catholic priest who was inclined to the American interests and had great influence over the people in his ecclesiastical jurisdiction, to go to Vincennes and bring the Post over to the American side without Clark himself having to march against the place. Accompanied by another who was given military and civil power, and a spy in the service of the sagacious Clark, Father Gibault went to Vincennes, and the people in a body solemnly at the church took the oath of allegiance to Virginia. The fort was garrisoned by the populace and the American flag was displayed. Gibault and his party returned to Kaskaskia, and the Wabash River valley passed temporarily out of the control of the British.

The Indians of the nations on the Wabash came to Post Vincennes and made friends with the new Americans in charge. The British daily lost ground in the territory. The French amiably joined with the Americans in their cause for independence. Clark resolved that the Indians should not be spoiled by substituting an American method of treating them for the French and Spanish procedure. He was required by circumstances of the frontier to assume authority in order to effect his objectives; he commissioned French officers in the country to command a company of inhabitants, and he established a garrison at Cahokia. His instructions were silent on many points, and he was forced to improvise an authority in order to conceal a want of instruction in certain cases.² In the meantime Governor Hamilton collected an army, consisting of about thirty regulars, fifty French volunteers, and four hundred Indians and passed down the Wabash River and again took possession of Post Vincennes for the British. Clark executed a secret and rapid manoeuvre from Kaskaskia and recaptured the fort which Hamilton had rebuilt. Thus in February, 1779, the Wabash River valley, including the Vermilion region, passed definitely into the hands of the Americans. Clark held military possession of the Northwest until the close of the Revolutionary War, and in that action it was secured to the United States. When the Treaty of Paris was drafted in 1783, the French government tried to have the Americans confined to the region east of the Alleghenies; and the British insisted that the Ohio River should be the northern boundary of the United States. But the American peace commissioners relied on the fact that General Clark and his "Long Knives" had conquered the Northwest and

1. Wilbur F. Gordy, A History of the United States (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1916), p. 169, 170.
2. Beckwith, History of Vermilion County, p. 251-54.

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that he was in undisputed possession of it at the time of the negotiation.¹ The conquest of the Northwest by George Rogers Clark was a daring episode in the overthrow of English authority; it constitutes a thrilling chapter in the historical background of the American commonwealths that were carved out of the territory of the Northwest.

American Beginnings

Illinois County

Even before the completion of Clark's conquest, the General Assembly of the State of Virginia passed in October, 1778, an act establishing the Illinois County. All the citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia who were settled on, or were later to settle on, the western side of the Ohio, were included in this distinct county. Colonel John Todd was appointed civil governor, known as county lieutenant or commander-in-chief, of the newly established County of Illinois.² Governor Todd proceeded to Kaskaskia and Vincennes in the spring of 1779 and set up courts of justice and provided other machinery to secure peace and good order among the inhabitants. The court comprised several magistrates who dispensed justice, in the absence of statutes specifically defining their powers, pretty much according to their own unrestrained notions of equity, applied according to the emergency of each particular case.³

The immediate years following the formation of the Illinois County were full of confusion and widespread disturbance. This was due in part to the conflicting interests of the remnants of English control and the new settlers, and to the distaste of the French traders for the business methods of the American colonists whose' Continental money was an annoyance to the French; and also to the reluctance of the Indians to yield peacefully to the hardy frontiersmen, many of whom were veterans of the Revolutionary War. Land speculation schemes and uncertainty of titles and claims added to the confusion in general.⁴ The government of the County of Illinois broke down under the strain of frontier life. Governor Todd left Illinois, leaving a deputy to act in his stead. The high-handed methods of some of the pioneers forced the French, with whom they differed much in religion, language, and customs, to migrate across the Mississippi River where they sought more congenial conditions under the Spanish who held the Louisiana country.⁵ Disorder was rampant and strife was the temper of all the Northwest. The question of orderly government

1. Beckwith, History of Vermilion County, p. 258,259; Gordy, A History of the United States, p. 183.
2. Beckwith, History of Vermilion County, p. 257,258.
3. Ibid., p. 260.
4. Theodore Calvin Pease, The Story of Illinois (Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co., 1925), p. 55,56.
5. Ibid.

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arose and the Continental Congress was appealed to for aid in establishing authority that would guarantee the safety of life and property.

Conflicting State Claims

The territory of the Northwest soon became a source of trouble to the Congress. Besides the claims of Virginia, the states of New York, Massachusetts, and Connecticut asserted title to portions of it by virtue of their charters. These conflicting claims were subjects of much discussion and legislative action in the states named, and by Congress as well.¹ Other states had minor claims; but those of the four states were to become a factor that almost disrupted the thirteen colonies, and prevented the formation of the United States of America.² An historic fight began for the possession of and the profits from these lands as early as 1777, when the Articles of Confederation were drafted and submitted to the state legislatures for ratification. Maryland's delegates to the Congress introduced a resolution giving the sole and exclusive right and power to ascertain and fix the western boundary of such states as claimed land in the Northwest. Also the Congress was to have power to form states out of this territory. John Hanson and his Maryland associates in Congress were the first to dream of national expansion and to think beyond the conception of thirteen states with western boundaries. Even as the King of England wanted distant colonies, so the larger and more powerful American states wanted their distant colonies, which could be ruled by governors and taxed for the benefit of the owner states. Hanson demanded that the states cede and give to the new nation forever all the land they claimed outside their own geographical borders.³

Maryland steadfastly refused to ratify the Articles of Confederation as the constitution of the new republic until there was assurance that the land question had been settled in accordance with her demand. When New York, on March 1, 1781, presented to the Congress its definite cession of claims to western lands, and assurances of like action were given by the other states, Hanson and Daniel Carroll signed the Articles of Confederation. The country was then complete as a nation. For the part he had played in the development of the nation, John Hanson was elected President of the United States under its first constitution as embodied in the Articles of Confederation, which was as legal in every way as the second constitution.⁴ After the cession by New York of her land claims

1. Beckwith, History of Vermilion County, p. 260.
2. Seymore Wemyss Smith, John Hanson, Our First President (New York: Brewer, Warren and Putnam, 1932), p. 43. Hereinafter referred to as John Hanson, President.
3. Ibid., p. 44-58.
4. Ibid., p. 57,59. Note: Abraham Lincoln in his inaugural address of 1861, declared: "The Union is much older than the Constitution. The faith of all the thirteen States was expressly plighted and engaged that it should be perpetual by the Articles of Confederation."

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to the central government, Virginia followed in 1784. Connecticut, executing her release in 1786, was the last to act, and then only after a compromise, which set aside 3,800,000 acres, known as the "Western Reserve," or "Connecticut Reserve," from the Pennsylvania state line west along the shore of Lake Erie in Ohio.¹

Spanish Invasion

After General Clark had established the authority of Virginia over the territory of the Northwest and Colonel Todd had taken office as governor of the County of Illinois, and improvised Spanish army invaded the territory and battled with the Kickapoo Indians who had a town at the site of the old Salt Works west of Danville. Early in 1781 a small army of perhaps one hundred and fifty men under the command of the Spanish officer, Don Eugenie Pourre, crossed the Mississippi at St. Louis, which was then the capital of Louisiana; these troops, composed of about an equal number of white men and Indians, marched across the state of Illinois enroute to attack the British fort at the mouth of the St. Joseph River near the south end of Lake Michigan. It was in the dead of the winter; and, according to records found at St. Louis, two days were spent at the salines of the Vermilion in parley with the Indians in an effort to have them acknowledge the sovereignty of the Spanish king. The Spaniards were unsuccessful and on the third day a battle was fought. The Spanish forces were worsted and were forced to withdraw. Several cannon balls of foreign manufacture were later found embedded in the bluff near the old Salt Works; they were thought to have been fired from a small piece of artillery planted on nearby hills. Whether they were fired by the Spanish is a matter of conjecture. It is thought by some historians that their presence can more reasonably be accounted for by wars against the Indians waged in 1812 by the Illinois Rangers and General Samuel Hopkins, who commanded two thousand mounted Kentucky riflemen in the campaign to put down the Indians who were then in revolt. The Spanish invaders departed for their destination, where, it has been established, they captured the fort at St. Joseph, and after hoisting the Spanish flag took up their triumphal march by way of the Kankakee portage back to St. Louis and safety.²

Whether this foray was one link in a chain which Spain was forging to gain possession of more land in the New World, or was just the American phase of a quarrel Spain and England were having in Europe, is not known. It may be that the region out of which Vermilion County was formed, at the time really stood in danger of becoming a part of New Spain. A Vermilion County historian said of this episode: "In the

1. Charles Edwin Hopkins, Ohio (Boston: L. C. Page & Company, 1931), p. 288,289. Note: John Fiske, historian, gave the area of the Western Reserve as about 3,250,000 acres.
2. Clint Clay Tilton, The Genesis of Old Vermilion, 1826-1926 (Danville: Illinois Printing Company, 1926), p. 17,18; Jones, Vermilion County, Illinois, p. 53,54.

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annals of Old Vermilion it is an epic, but in Europe, far across the sea, it was but a gesture in the drama in which the fighting strength of two proud nations was cast."¹

National Unity

The years 1783 to 1789 are known as the "Critical Period of American History" because they were laden with grave concern over many serious problems confronting the thirteen colonies in their effort to associate themselves in a compact that would provide national unity without interfering with concepts of state sovereignty. Out of a league of friendship, national unity did evolve, but not without encountering great obstacles.² The creation of a national domain beyond the Alleghenies did much toward achieving this unity; the small states that could look forward to no expansion, no longer looked with disfavor on the "land rich" states. They had no dread of a future in which New York and Virginia might wax powerful enough to tyrannize over their smaller neighbors.³ "The exercise of national sovereignty in the sense of eminent domain," as expressed in the Ordinance of 1787, prepared men's minds for a centralized national government. This plan of organization and of administering the territory of the Northwest was itself an evolution from several other plans that had been advanced. Congressional action on territorial organization had been delayed because of reports that the prairies were a hopeless desert and certain never to be densely populated. Nevertheless, land companies continued to be organized, and many well-known leaders in the War for Independence headed these companies.

Government of the Northwest

How was the empire north of the Ohio to be organized and governed? This was an imperative question to the statesmen of the critical period. While the convention which drafted the Federal Constitution was in session at Philadelphia, in New York the Continental Congress on July 13, 1787, adopted unanimously "The Ordinance of 1787, an Ordinance for the Government of the Territory of the United States, Northwest of the River Ohio." This act, when considered with respect to the times in which it was adopted, was a radical document.⁴ It made sweeping changes in the whole theory of social laws as practiced in Europe, and contravened the opinions of many of the American people, emerging, as they were, from the accumulated prejudices of the old world into the daydawn of a new and experimental government.⁵ The Ordinance set forth the "rights of men" which were not made a part of the Federal Constitution until Decem-

1. Tilton, The Genesis of Old Vermilion, 1826-1926, p. 18.
2. John Fiske, The Critical Period of American History (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Company, 1888), p. 90-133, 187-229.
3. *Ibid.*, p. 191.
4. Beckwith, History of Vermilion County, p. 261.
5. *Ibid.*

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ber 15, 1791, and on December 18, 1865, as amendments to that document. The principles set forth in the Ordinance set a pattern for practically every state constitution since written, as the nation moved westward from sea to sea. It became a basis upon which was to be reared one of civilization's great forward surges. It enunciated the principle that the utmost good faith always shall be observed towards the Indians. It declared that their lands and property shall never be taken from them without their consent.

This crystalized expression of what Americans had fought for in the War for Independence, was formulated by patriots and colonial statesmen who did not participate in drafting the Federal Constitution. The Ordinance expressed the policy of restricting slavery so as to let it die a natural death within a narrowly confinod area;¹ it thus went beyond the basic law which was being drafted in Philadelphia at the same time. This policy was sustained three-quarters of a century later by the national blood-bath of the Civil War. There were to be formed out of the Northwest Territory not less than three nor more than five states. These states were not to come into the Union as sovereign states with all domestic policies and institutions in their own hands for shaping. Slavery was forbidden in this national domain, and the theory of peaceful secession was condemned; that is, no state to be formed could be separated from the Union. The Ordinance fixed the law of descent upon the just and equitable terms of equality in the division of real estate among the heirs of the ancestor, thus pulling up by the roots the European doctrine of primogeniture. Among other conditions required of states to be formed was the preservation of the civil rights that were later embodied in the first ten amendments to the Federal Constitution.

Out of the territory were formed, in the order named, the states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin. The territory included that portion of Minnesota east of the Mississippi, to which was added in 1849 a part of the Louisiana Purchase to form the Minnesota Territory. From 1787 to 1800 Illinois was a part of the Northwest Territory; from 1800 to 1809 it was a part of Indiana Territory, after Ohio became a separate territory; and from 1809 to 1818, it was called Illinois Territory.

Major-General Arthur St. Clair was appointed the first governor of the Northwest Territory by the Congress on October 5, 1787. The capital of this domain was at Marietta on the Ohio. Governor St. Clair did not come to the Illinois country until 1790, at which time two counties were set up by proclamation and by authority of the Ordinance of 1787.³ These counties were St. Clair and Knox. The section now known as Vermilion County was a part of Knox County, a vast region, extending from the

1. Ordinance of 1787, Art. 6.

2. Ibid., Art. 1-6; Beckwith, History of Vermilion County, p. 262, 263.

3. Ordinance of 1787, par. 8 of introduction.

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central part of Illinois, as its western boundary, north to the Canadian line and east as far as the western part of Ohio.¹

The Ordinance set forth the form in which the Territory was to be administered and governed. Governors were commissioned by the Congress for a period of three years. A court of three judges was also appointed, who, with the governor, were empowered to formulate the laws from the statutes of the original states; they were to be in effect in the Territory, unless disapproved by the Congress. As soon as there were five thousand free male inhabitants "of full age" in the Territory, a general assembly was to be elected in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Ordinance. One of the provisions was that a citizen to be eligible or qualified for election as a representative to the general assembly, must hold in fee simple 200 acres of land. The general assembly consisted of a governor, a legislative council of five members nominated by the house of representatives and approved by the Congress, and a house of representatives elected by the people. Until the territory had sufficient population qualified to entitle it to elect a general assembly, it was administered by the governor and a court of three judges.

Indiana Territory Formed

In due time that section of the Territory east of Knox County was able to meet the requirements of the Ordinance for separate existence, and in 1800 the Ohio Territory was formed. The remainder of the domain became the Indiana Territory with its capital at Vincennes on the Wabash. The section now included in Vermilion County had been a part of the Northwest Territory for fourteen years. From 1787 until 1795, the Territory was under what was known as the first grade administration: that of governor and a court of three judges. In 1795 the second grade territorial government was inaugurated.² Under this form of administration Knox County was entitled to representation in the General Assembly of the Northwest Territory, which body was authorized to elect a delegate to the Congress. The delegate exercised the right of debate but not of voting during this temporary government.³

At the time the Northwest Territory was terminated, and the Indiana Territory was formed, General William Henry Harrison, then the territorial delegate in Congress, was appointed governor of the new territory. Harrison had served as an ensign with Governor St. Clair; and, as aide-de-camp of General Anthony Wayne, he took a distinguished part in the successful campaigns of the latter against the Indians of the Northwest. On the formation of the Indiana Territory he was not only made its governor, but was commissioned superintendent of Indian affairs in the Northwest. He administered the affairs of the Indians with a skill and a success never equaled by any other person through whom the government had

1. "Territorial Records of the Northwest Territory," The St. Clair Papers, ed. William Henry Smith (Cincinnati, 1882), II, 166.
2. "Journal of Official Proceedings" in Smith, St. Clair Papers, I, 145.
3. Ordinance of 1787, par. 12 of introduction.

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dealings with the Indians. During the long period he had charge of Indian affairs, he extinguished the title the Indians held to the greater part of the territory within the limits of Illinois and Indiana; and in all his dealings with this unfortunate race his conduct was marked with a uniform kindness and fairness that won for him the confidence and esteem of the Indians themselves and the applause of the government. He was elected President in 1840.¹

In 1795 Governor St. Clair divided Randolph County from St. Clair to give ease and facility to the administration of justice.² The affairs of St. Clair County had become chaotic and civil government had ceased to run smoothly, if it ever had done so. Governor Harrison continued these counties, but changed their boundaries and enlarged their areas.³

In enlarging St. Clair County, the boundary of Knox County, which contained the area of the future county of Vermilion, the eastern line of St. Clair County passed directly through what is now Danville so that the area that is now Vermilion County lay partly in St. Clair and partly in Knox counties. This division line remained unchanged until after the organization of the Territory of Illinois in 1809. Back of the administrative acts and proclamations forming counties and redefining boundaries was a complex of dissensions, political and economic disturbances and changes, too intricate to outline here. Distances were great and difficulties were encountered by governors in their efforts to make civil affairs run smoothly; bitter contentions existed between a variety of population groups. There also were swamps, impenetrable prairies, and an inhospitable wilderness. Angry and treacherous Indian tribes separated settlements one from another and acted as barriers to frequent and easy access to seats of governments. Factionalism, disputes over land titles, and the question of slavery entered into the political agitations of the period that were involved in the movement for separating the western portion of the Indiana Territory and making a new territory.

Illinois Territory Formed

The eastern boundary of the Territory of Illinois as fixed by the act of Congress creating the new territory was the Wabash River and a line drawn from that river and Post Vincennes due north to the territorial line between the United States and Canada.⁴ This line automatically dissolved that portion of Knox County that included lands in the Illinois Territory. Shortly after the new Territory had been established, Nathaniel Pope, secretary of the territory and acting governor for a time, issued a proclamation continuing the counties of St. Clair and Randolph without change of boundaries, except that the eastern boundary

1. Beckwith, History of Vermilion County, p. 280,281.

2. "Territorial Records of the Northwest Territory," in Smith, St. Clair Papers, II, 345.

3. Executive Journal of Indiana Territory, p. 98.

4. 2 U.S.S.L. 114.

Historical Sketch

of each was extended to the eastern boundary of the territory, now the eastern boundary of the state.¹ It was in this manner that the Vermilion County area passed into the jurisdiction of St. Clair County. The county seat was at Cahokia on the west side of the state, a distance of nearly two hundred miles. Kaskaskia was the seat of territorial government. The new governor, appointed by the Congress, was Ninian Edwards, then chief justice of the court of appeals of Kentucky. Because of the factionalism within the territory and ambition for power among the Illinois leaders, appointments to some judgeships and other offices came from outside Illinois.² From this time on the area that is now Vermilion County was identified with Illinois history, Illinois economic development, and Illinois political and social changes.

The Ordinance of 1787 again formed the basis of the organization of the new territory, and for the third time the people of Illinois found themselves under the rule of a territorial governor and judges, which was the first grade of territorial government.³ The advance of Illinois to the second grade of territorial government took place in 1812. Several of the state constitutions that had been adopted had dropped all property qualifications for suffrage; and Congress, by an act of 1809, had liberalized the government of Indiana Territory to the extent of providing for the election by the people, of the delegate to Congress and members of the territorial council, although the suffrage qualification remained unchanged. In Illinois the restriction of suffrage and office holding to freeholders was especially objectionable in 1812, for there were no sales of land until after 1814, and the greater majority of the inhabitants were squatters waiting patiently for the opportunity to purchase the land on which they had located.⁴ Governor Edwards at the time of issuing the proclamation for the election of members to the house of representatives explained in a letter to a congressman from Kentucky that if the property qualification for suffrage were not removed and provision made for electing the delegate to Congress by popular vote, the freeholders, constituting one tenth of the male population, would be able to control the government for at least five years. From the creation of the Illinois Territory in 1809 until sometime after its organization as a state in 1818, it is said, the government of Illinois was more aristocratic than it ever has been since.⁵

1. Territorial Records of Illinois, p. 3.
2. Solon Justus Buck, Illinois in 1818, introductory volume, Centennial History of Illinois (Springfield: Illinois Centennial Commission, 1917), p. 193.
3. *Ibid.*
4. *Ibid.*, p. 195, 196.
5. Pease, The Story of Illinois, p. 98, 99. Property qualification for suffrage and debtor's laws mitigated against the growth of popular government in the territory; laws for settlement of the poor prohibited their free movement. Officials sent by Congress to the territory were, because of the structure of society of the day, accorded the position and consideration of "gentlemen."

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Congress on May 20, 1812 enacted a law enabling the people of Illinois to establish the most democratic form of territorial government to be found in the United States at that time. By the terms of this act, suffrage was granted to all free white males, twenty-one years of age, who had paid a county or territorial tax, no matter how small, and had resided in the territory one year.¹

More Vermilion County Antecedents

Governor Edwards issued a proclamation in 1812, establishing three new counties: Madison, Gallatin, and Johnson, making five in all, to serve as the districts for the five members of the territorial council, who were to be elected by the people instead of by the legislature. The area of Vermilion County was included in Madison County, where it remained until 1814 when it was included in the newly formed Edwards County.² On the last day of the year 1816 Crawford County was set off from Edwards, and the Vermilion country was taken under a new county administrative unit of the Illinois Territory, which had for its northern boundary the line of "Upper Canada." This area included the present County of Cook. The act creating Crawford County specified that the western line of the county ran north to Canada.³ The new county's eastern boundary was the Indiana state line, and the southern boundary was the northern line of Edwards County. The Vermilion area was in the jurisdiction of Crawford County when Illinois became a state, December 3, 1818. Crawford was then the largest county in the state, having an area of more than twenty thousand square miles and a population of 2,946 people. Of the total population there were 78 free negroes and 20 servants or slaves; there were 518 families averaging about five members each.⁴

The greater part of Crawford County was still Indian land in 1818, and the only part in which the land had been surveyed and offered for sale was a strip in the southeast, averaging about ten miles in width, which extended along the Wabash and the eastern boundary of the state to near the southern boundary of Vermilion County.⁵ In this restricted region of about seven hundred square miles lived nearly all of the county's population. The county seat at this time was at Palestine, located on the Wabash River at the mouth of La Motte Creek, where in 1812 was a blockhouse, called Fort La Motte, that stood on the extreme northern limit of settlements in eastern Illinois. So far no permanent settlement of the white man was established within the limits of what is now Vermilion County. The title of the Indians who claimed the country along the waters of the Vermilions had not been extinguished. Although the

1. Buck, Illinois in 1818, p. 196.
2. Laws of the Territory of Illinois, ed. Nathaniel Pope, I, 85.
3. Territorial Laws, 1816-1817, p. 21.
4. Buck, Illinois in 1818, p. 60.
5. Ibid.

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United States had secured formal title to this region by the Treaty of Paris in 1783, and had prevailed on the various states to relinquish their claims, the Indian title to the Northwest still held. Details of how the Indians were dispossessed of their lands are not a part of this historical sketch, but it was as if a giant hand had relentlessly swept the aborigines north and west for almost a century.

Aquisition of Title from the Indians

Indian Wars

During the pioneer period of the Northwest, the Illinois country was comparatively free from Indian warfare in contrast to the frequent uprisings that characterized the same period in Ohio and Indiana. Nevertheless, settlement of the Illinois country was greatly retarded because of the terror spread by the Indians in their resistance to the expansion westward by the colonists from the east. Entrance into the Vermilion country from the east was barred by the Indians in their uprisings against the white settlements in Ohio and Indiana, and from the south by their frequent incursions and massacres in Kentucky. However, there were conflicts in Illinois between the white settlers and Indians in which armed territorial and Federal forces participated. The Indian Wars that occurred outside the territorial area of Illinois oftentimes terrorized the whole frontier, menacing the welfare and security of the white population of the entire Northwest.

Getting rid of the Indian barrier to the advance of the agricultural frontier was a difficult problem faced by the Federal Government; and, more than this: it was important to the new and rising young republic to gather into its own control, or the control of its merchants and traders, the rich fur trade enjoyed by the British. Under these circumstances the redmen were restless and dissatisfied. Notwithstanding the conquest of the Northwest by George Rogers Clark, and the stipulations of the Peace of Paris in 1783, Great Britain refused to surrender her several military posts in the acknowledged territory of the United States. The excuse given for this retention of military control over great areas of the Northwest was that the people of the United States had not met their debt requirements and that the fourth article of the aforementioned treaty stipulated that creditors on either side should meet with no lawful impediment to the recovery of all bona-fide debts.¹ The true cause for the action of Great Britain in retaining possession of these posts was to prolong her enjoyment of the fur trade and continue her influence over the several Indian tribes. Since 1765 the British in conjunction with the Canadians and *courreurs de bois* had extended their fur trade over the entire Northwest and were reaping such profits as they never before realized.²

1. Secret Journal of Congress, v. 4, p. 187.

2. Beckwith, History of Vermilion County, p. 165,266.

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After the close of the Revolutionary War the British made no provisions for her Indian allies, who continued their hostilities against the Americans. No treaties had ever been made between the United States and the Wabash tribes. The government sought by peaceable means to put an end to the depredations of the Indians in accordance with the high-minded principles expressed in the third article of the Ordinance of 1787. But the actual practice in the light of historical developments seems to have been somewhat contradictory to the theory expressed in the Ordinance.¹ The rapacities of liquor dealers and land grabbers on the one hand, and on the other, the encouragement of the British, who supplied the Indians with arms and ammunition, gave adequate cause for wars authorized by Congress. The injustice done the aborigines belatedly has been recognized - when the recognition could cause no reversal in the policy of achieving "the manifest destiny" of the white man on the continent. "Many, if not most, of our Indian wars have had their origin in broken promises and acts of injustice on our part," said President Hayes in a message to Congress in 1877.²

Military expeditions were sent out by Congress from 1790 to 1795 to subjugate the Indians of the Northwest; their villages along the Maumee and Wabash rivers were destroyed, women and children were taken captives and held as prisoners; their fields were devastated, and the Indians, suffering for food and shelter, were made to feel the retributive hand of the Americans. At times there were serious reversals, and successes were turned into disaster, as was the case in the defeat of Governor St. Clair's expedition in 1791 when it was attacked in what is now Mercer County, Ohio, by a confederated Indian force of warriors and totally destroyed. General Wayne - "Mad Anthony" of Revolutionary fame - was appointed military commander of the Northwest. While he was recruiting and training forces with which to form an invincible army to conquer the Indians, the government undertook to bring the Wabash tribes to a treaty of peace. General Rufus Putnam, superintendent of the Ohio Company at Marietta on the Ohio River, undertook at the hazard of his life to visit the hostile tribes and induce them to enter into negotiations. He went to Vincennes on the Wabash by way of the Ohio River, taking with him women and children, surviving Indian prisoners, who had been captured by Americans in their expeditions against the Indians.

1. Careful reading of the third article will reveal how justification for the violation of a principle can be derived from the form in which the principle is stated: "The utmost good faith shall always be observed toward the Indians; their lands and property shall never be taken from them without their consent; and, in their property, rights, and liberty, they shall never be invaded or disturbed, unless in just and lawful wars, authorized by Congress; but laws founded in justice and humanity, shall, from time to time, be made for preventing wrongs being done them." Congress was to be the judge of what was just and lawful as the cause for an authorized war; and the Indians were not represented in Congress. (Underscoring by writer)
2. Charles A. and Mary R. Beard, The Rise of American Civilization (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1930), II, 131.

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Delegates representing the Wea, Pottowatomie, Mascoutin, Kickapoo, Eel River, Piankeshaw, and Kaskaskia tribes met in a grand council with General Putnam in the summer of 1792. Putnam gave them an opportunity to talk with authorized agents of the United States about all that had happened, to settle old scores and to begin anew. The chiefs, sachems, and warriors held that the whites should not take their land, and that the Ohio River should be the mutual boundary between them. The Indians said they did not want to live too near the white people as there were bad persons on both sides. They wished to trade with the white people and they also requested that the French dwelling in the vicinity of Vincennes should not be deprived of their lands which had been given them by the forefathers of the Indians present at the council.¹ Definite articles of peace were concluded and signed on September 27, 1792, being the first treaty ever entered into between the United States and the several Wabash tribes. It was a treaty of peace and friendship only.² Vermilion's connection with this phase of Indian affairs is shown in two medals found in April, 1855, at the old, so-called Kickapoo Indian burying ground, near the mouth of the Middle Fork River about four miles west of Danville, in a grave that had become exposed by the giving away of the high bluff, on the brink of which this grave, and many others, was located.³ This burial ground has had no similar use since the removal of the Pottowatomies west in 1838. Among the manuscript papers of General Putnam relating to the treaty of Vincennes is a speech in his own handwriting in which he particularly describes one of these silver medals. General Putnam had taken with him to Vincennes a quantity of goods for presents, among which were silver medals bearing the arms of the United States.⁴ In the minutes of the treaty made at Greenville in 1795, Chief Kesis, or the Sun, a prominent chief of the Pottowatomies, is reported to have said that he assisted at the treaty of Vincennes. It is also believed that Chief Kesis was buried in the burying ground above mentioned. The other medal found was British, a duplicate of which was located in the collection of the British Museum

1. Beckwith, History of Vermilion County, p. 267, 268.
2. A treaty between Indian tribes of the Northwest and the United States had been made by Governor Arthur St. Clair in 1790. The Miami tribes were signatory to this treaty, but Chief Little Turtle at the Treaty of Greenville in 1795, repudiated the validity of the treaty, saying that some of the young men of the Miami nation had been induced to attend the council held at Fort Harmer at the mouth of the Muskingum on the Ohio. Little Turtle then claimed the lands on the Wabash for his people of the Miami nation. In this he was opposed by other chiefs who asserted that the Great Spirit had given it to all Indians and that all of them had an equal right to live on it. By the actions of these chiefs, the treaties made with the Americans at Fort McIntosh, Fort Harmer, and at the mouth of the Great Miami were nullified. Hopkins, Ohio, p. 152, 180-83, 381.
3. Jones, Vermilion County, Illinois, p. 21, 22; Beckwith, History of Vermilion County, p. 269-73.
4. Beckwith, History of Vermilion County, p. 271-74.

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in London, England. Subsequent to the treaty of 1783, the British distributed medals of this character among the Indians of the Northwest. These two medals are still in the possession of a Vermilion County citizen.

The treaty concluded by General Putnam was laid before the United States Senate in February, 1793. The senate refused to ratify it because the fourth article recognized the right of the Indians "to their lands, as being theirs and theirs only." Meanwhile the Indians were becoming increasingly hostile and gathering in large numbers and concentrating their forces against garrisoned posts and fortified settlements. The Indians refused to recede from their position that the Ohio River was the boundary between themselves and the United States, notwithstanding that, by the treaties of Fort McIntosh and Fort Harmer, the government had acquired a large tract on the north and west side of that river, portions of which had already been purchased by citizens of the United States, who were actually living on the same. Throughout all the period of negotiation, some of the Indians insisted that the British should be invited to attend because it was they who called the Indians to war against the United States.¹

The finale to this period of Indian wars was reached when General Wayne, known by the Indians as "The Eye That Never Sleeps," completely annihilated the forces of the combined tribes of the Northwest at the Battle of Fallen Timbers on the Maumee (Ohio), August 20, 1794. The Indians then began to realize that it was suicidal to oppose the white man in his determination to obtain land. The following summer, August 3, 1795, the Treaty of Greenville (Ohio) was signed, setting aside the lands open to white settlement and those designated as Indian lands under the jurisdiction of the United States. It has been said that one of the greatest deals in real estate ever consummated was at Fort Greenville almost one hundred and fifty years ago. It included cessions of relatively small parcels of land, the value of which, today, is almost inestimable. These squares of land were reserved for military establishments and trading posts; they included "one piece of land six miles square, at the mouth of the Chikago River, emptying into the South West end of Lake Michigan where a fort formerly stood."² The treaty of Greenville affected the fortunes of the entire lands of the Northwest. It is said to have marked the end of an epoch. Settlers poured out over the lands made safe by the treaty and pushed westward the frontier from the Ohio lands to the Mississippi River. More than this: General Wayne's success, together with the government's aggressive diplomatic action, forced the British within the Northwest Territory to relinquish their posts in 1796. General Wayne took possession of them on behalf of the United States.

1. Beckwith, History of Vermilion County, p. 275.

2. Hopkins, Ohio, p. 190, 191.

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Tecumseh's Conspiracy

However, the settlers and their government were not done with Indian wars, conflicts, conspiracies, and massacres. Acquisition of vast areas by extinguishing title claimed by the Indians was yet to be accomplished. There were irreconcilables among the Indians who participated in the Treaty of Greenville, some of whom were under the influence of the British when not the direct agents of them. One of these recalcitrant war chiefs was Tecumseh, who in his early twenties had been a spy in the woods covering the operations of General Wayne. At that very time young William Henry Harrison, who was destined to be Tecumseh's principal foe, was an aide to Wayne. Tecumseh from his youth had been a silent dreamer and an admirer of Chief Pontiac. Smarting under the aggressions of the whites, this chief of a subtribe of the Shawnees, traveled over the entire country between the Mississippi River and the Appalachians, from the Gulf to Lake Superior, visiting distant tribes trying to weld them into a unit for the purpose of driving the white man out of the Northwest. He was a master of invection and his fiery eloquence won over many tribes.¹

Able and dour Tecumseh, whose father had been killed by the whites at the Battle of Point Pleasant (now West Virginia) in Lord Dunmore's war in 1774 against the savages, was aided by his brother, Lol-a-waw-chic-ka, or the Loud Voice, generally known as "The Prophet."² This man avowed that he had been deputed by the Great Spirit to reform the manners of the red people, to revive their old customs which had been laid aside since their intercourse with the white people. All manners in dress and other innovations borrowed by the Indians from the whites were to be abolished. When these reforms were accomplished the comfort and happiness enjoyed by their forefathers would be restored, on condition of their obedience to the will and orders of the Prophet, who pretended to foretell future events, and who declared that he was invulnerable to the arms or shot of his enemy. He promised the same inviolability to those of his followers who would devote themselves entirely to his service.³ In the spring of 1808 the Prophet and his adherents moved from Greenville (Ohio) and took up their abode on the Wabash near the mouth of the Tippecanoe, on a tract of land claimed to have been granted them by the Potowatomies and the Kickapoos, without the consent of the Miamis, who claimed they were the rightful owners. The Prophet was an artful rogue and succeeded in stirring up the Indians, over a vast expanse of territory, to a frenzy of religious superstition and excitement. Tecumseh took care to

1. Hopkins, Ohio, p. 163, 177, 194.

2. Some authors give the name as Tens-kwau-ta-waw, meaning the Open Door.

3. Beckwith, History of Vermilion County, p. 282-86; The Life of Major-General William Henry Harrison (Philadelphia: Grigg and Elliot, 1840).

Note: The Memoirs of General Harrison are replete with data of this nature.

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lend the aid of his powerful name and influence to the Prophet by an ostentatious reverence. The Prophet returned the compliment by pointing out Tecumseh as the leader chosen by the Great Spirit to save the red man. Thomas Jefferson, discussing his times, said of the Prophet: ". . . his followers increased until the British thought him worth corrupting, and found him corruptible."¹

In the spring of 1809 the Prophet required his people to take up the hatchet against the white people, to destroy the inhabitants of Vincennes and those on the Ohio, who lived as far down as the mouth of the river and as high up as Cincinnati. Here entered Joseph Barron, one of Harrison's interpreters, who was one of the first white men known to have been at the Vermilion salines, as early as 1801. Barron was sent to the Prophet's town to inform the Indians of the strength and resources of the United States. The speech was delivered in the presence of Tecumseh in whose house Barron was lodged for the night. Tecumseh held that at the Treaty of Greenville the United States had admitted the right of all the tribes to hold the lands jointly, and, therefore, the United States had no right to purchase territory of a single tribe without the consent of all the others.²

Tecumseh agreed to a conference to be held at Vincennes, whither he went in the summer of 1810. The boldness of the followers of the Prophet increased daily; hostile parties constantly raided the white settlements and stole their horses. The following year, in September, Governor Harrison was ordered to proceed to the Prophet's town with a military force, which he was to use only after all efforts to effect a peaceable dispersion of its occupants had failed. On November 7, 1811, the Battle of Tippecanoe was fought. The Prophet was a defeated leader, and as a result his influence rapidly waned. Tecumseh was not present at the battle, but his prestige remained unimpaired. He continued to be an implacable enemy of the United States. A year later when the War of 1812 was declared, Tecumseh tendered his services to Great Britain.

Second War for Independence

Though the uprising had been put down, the Vermilion salines remained in the possession of the Indians who guarded them with great care. White traders made trips to the Indian settlements along the Vermilion, but none settled there during this period when safety required that settlements of pioneers be kept within easy reach of fortified posts such as Vincennes. The Kickapoo and Pottowatomie tribes of the prairies held the region at this time. The graves of some of the warriors who died from wounds received at Tippecanoe were located

1. Beckwith, History of Vermilion County, p. 282-86; Hopkins, Ohio, p. 194, 195.
2. Ibid.

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four miles west of Danville, and were pointed out to the early salt boilers in 1819 by the survivors who were cognizant of the facts. In its results, the Battle of Tippecanoe ranks as one of the most important ever fought against the Indians in the West. It may be said to have been the opening battle of the War of 1812, although the formal declaration of hostilities was deferred until the following June. The British wished the country of the Northwest to remain a wilderness in the possession of the Indians, but as crown lands for a source of supply for their trade in furs. Settlement meant a complete change in the economic as well as the political development of the United States, to the north of which was British-owned Canada.

We are here concerned with the War of 1812 only to the extent that that conflict had any direct connection with the Vermilion country. After the Battle of Tippecanoe the frontiers enjoyed a brief respite. Fort Harrison (Terre Haute) had been established on the Wabash above Vincennes by General Harrison as a part of his plan for putting down the uprising of the Prophet and Tecumseh. In less than sixty days after the War of 1812 was declared, the whole Northwest from Detroit to the Mississippi River was again in the hands of the British and their Indian allies under the influence of English traders. Fort Wayne and Fort Harrison were the only posts at which the United States presented successful resistance. Fort Harrison was commanded by Captain Zachary Taylor, later to be General, and President Taylor of the United States. The garrison at Fort Dearborn (Chicago) prepared to evacuate the post and repair to Fort Wayne for protection from hostile Indians. The massacre of two thirds of the garrison occurred when about two miles away from the fort.

Indian Power Broken

With the close of the war in 1815, the last great combination of Indians against the whites came to an end. There had been no fighting in Illinois between the British and American troops; the war came to Illinois in the form of an Indian uprising. When the treaty of peace was concluded, the boundary lines remained as before, without the loss of a single acre. As soon as the Indian titles to the several portions of the territory were successively extinguished, settlers poured in, often in advance of the government surveys. The Ohio and the Mississippi rivers were the base, and the Illinois, Wabash, and Miami rivers and their tributaries, with other principal streams, were the supporting columns upon which the settlements respectively formed and gradually extended until the intervening country was filled.²

This going back in point of time to uprisings of the Indians since the formation of the Northwest Territory shows where and how the major

1. Beckwith, History of Vermilion County, p. 296.
2. Ibid., p. 303.

conflicts fitted into the development of the Illinois country to the time when the Vermilion country - still Indian lands - became a part of the administrative unit of Crawford County in the Illinois Territory. Acquisition to title to the lands which opened for settlement the Vermilion country, was somewhat as follows: between 1789 and 1837 the Pottowatomies, by themselves or in connection with other tribes, made no less than thirty-eight treaties with the United States, all of which - excepting two or three which were treaties of peace only - were for cessions of lands claimed wholly by the Pottowatomies, or in common with other tribes. Likewise the Miamis ceded vast tracts of their lands in Illinois and Indiana to the Federal government over a period of fifty years. These people were much attached to the country along the Vermilion River. The Kickapoos valued it highly as a desirable home, and because of the minerals it was supposed to contain. General Harrison in 1809 at the Treaty of Fort Wayne induced the Kickapoos to release their title to the tract of country bounded on the east by the Wabash, on the south by the northern line of the so-called Harrison Purchase, extending from opposite the mouth of Raccoon Creek, northwest fifteen miles; thence to a point on the Vermilion River, twenty-five miles in a direct line from its mouth; thence down the latter stream to its confluence. This small tract of about twenty miles square was beautiful and was believed to contain very rich copper deposits. The Indians were extremely jealous of any search being made there, and traders were always cautioned not to approach the hills that were supposed to contain the mineral.¹

What is known as Harrison's Purchase (1809) has an intimate relation to Vermilion since the northwest corner of that tract constitutes a wedge-shaped appendage near the southeast corner of the county's southern boundary. In making the purchase of this tract, General Harrison concluded a treaty with the Delawares, the Kickapoos, the Pottowatomies, the Miamis, and the Eel River Indians. Harrison and the selected Indians came to Illinois to locate the new possession and to mark its borders. They met at a certain rock in a grove a little to the east of what is now Ridge Farm in Vermilion County. Not knowing the use of the compass, the Indians stipulated that the line bounding the east of the tract should run in the direction of the sun at ten o'clock in the morning, and that the western boundary line run in the direction of the sun at one o'clock in the afternoon. The agreement was that such territory as fell within the boundary of the extent of a man's riding in two days and a half, would be included in this purchase. All requirements were met, and, it is said, that on the return trip, the grove from which the rider started was his guide or pilot back. For that reason it was later called Pilot Grove. The eastern line of this survey was known to early settlers and surveyors as the "ten o'clock line," and the western line as the "one o'clock line."² After Illinois was admitted to statehood, a

1. Beckwith, History of Vermilion County, p. 163, 164.

2. Jones, Vermilion County, Illinois, p. 51.

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treaty was concluded at Edwardsville (July 13, 1819) between the United States and the Kickapoos; and a section of the country between the Illinois and Wabash rivers was ceded to the Federal government. The Pottowatomies had already ceded their claim to a tract northwest of the Wabash, lying mostly in Indiana but including a small triangle in Illinois between the Vermilion and the state line. After the treaty made at Edwardsville, which extinguished the claims of the Indians, the United States surveyors came. The small portion of the Harrison Purchase which extended into the Vermilion country was the only part of this territory which was surveyed up to 1821. However, it was not until the years 1819, 1832, and 1833 that all the claims of the Pottowatomie, Ottawa, Chippewa, and Winnebago tribes were given up.¹

Under Statehood

Illinois Becomes a State

In the meantime, Illinois was taking the first steps in self-government. The unsettled land now belonged to the Federal government, and the method of its disposition was by sale without distinction between settlers and speculators. The region in which the land was located was divided into districts, in each of which was established a local land office. The occupation of public lands by settlers long before they could be purchased was typical of the history of the American frontier. Thousands of improved places existed long before they were secured by purchase and located by survey. The frontier line of settlement was often beyond the line of survey and even beyond that of the Indian cession.² In January, 1818, Nathaniel Pope, the delegate of the territory in the House of Representatives, presented a memorial to Congress praying for admission of Illinois to the Union as a state. Pope introduced two amendments to the enabling act; one provided that three of the five percent of the proceeds from the sale of public lands should be used for schools, and not for roads and canals as provided for in the act; the other was to fix the northern boundary on the line of 42° 30', north latitude, about forty-one miles north of the line set in the bill, and fifty-one miles north of the dividing line as proposed in the Ordinance of 1787. This was to make Lake Michigan a part of the state's eastern boundary and to gain a coast line for water transportation between Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York. It brought into the state area more than 8,000 square miles of land. The enabling act was adopted by Congress, April 18, 1818; and on August 26, 1818, a state constitution was adopted in pursuance of this act; it became operative December 3, 1818, when Illinois was formally adopted into the family of

1. Jones, Vermilion County, Illinois, p. 5,52; Buck, Illinois in 1818, p. 39,40.
2. Buck, Illinois in 1818, p. 53,54.

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states by resolution of the Congress of the United States.¹ The first election of state and county officers had been held September 17-19, 1818, and upon the action of Congress, Illinois at once began to function as a commonwealth.

The history of Vermilion County as an administrative unit of state government is attached to many remote events which are well known to history and yet they do not constitute a part of the archival record of the county. The county's birth is limned against the background of its numerous parent governmental and social organizations. So far in its evolution none but Indians were there, and they were not affected by changes in the boundaries of the different counties which included this section of the country. On March 22, 1819, Crawford County was diminished in area; and Clark County, which included the Vermilion country, was organized with Aurora on the Wabash River as the county seat.² The northern boundary of the county was the Wisconsin line. Its area included all or parts of thirty-five counties into which the territory is now divided.

Vermilion Salines Explored

On August 30, 1819, a treaty was concluded at Fort Harrison (Terre Haute) between the United States, through its commissioner, Benjamin Parke, and "the chiefs, warriors, and head men of the tribe of Kickapoos of the Vermilion, in which to the end that the United States might be enabled to fix with other Indians a boundary between their respective claims." The terms of the treaty described the country to which the Kickapoos had a rightful claim, and which the United States had purchased at the treaty of Edwardsville the summer of the previous year. The boundaries of this territory embraced all of the Vermilion country.

In less than a month after the treaty was consummated at Fort Harrison, the Vermilion was explored by Joseph Barron, General Harrison's interpreter to whom reference has heretofore been made.³ Barron later made an affidavit that he had been at the Vermilion Salines as early as the year 1801, and that he was again at the same salt spring situated on the Big Vermilion River, on the north side, about one and a half miles above the old Kickapoo town (which then had been forsaken) at the confluence of the Middle Fork and Salt Fork in the County of Clark on September 22, 1819. The affidavit deposed that Barron was accompanied by Lambert Bona, Zachariah Cicott (or Shecott), and Truman Blackman, together with four Shawnee Indians whom Barron had engaged to go with him and show him minerals and salt springs.⁴ Two of the white men, Bona and

1. 3 U.S.S.L. 428.

2. L.1819, p: 166.

3. Beckwith, History of Vermilion County, p. 307,309.

4. Jones, Vermilion County, Illinois, p. 38. Historians of Vermilion County disagree on the number of Indians who were said to have accompanied Barron. One historian gives in one paragraph the number as two and again as four; still another quotes Barron's affidavit as saying there were four, but himself averred there were two.

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Cicott, were said to have been French traders who were also familiar with the salines and other features of the Vermilion country.

The General Assembly had previously enacted a law to encourage the discovery and development of saline water, by the terms of which any person making such discoveries should have the exclusive right to manufacture salt within a given area.¹ Interwoven with the evolution of Vermilion County was the development of laws governing the Illinois salines. In the winter of 1799 and 1800, William Henry Harrison, delegate to Congress from the Northwest Territory, recommended that salt springs and salt licks, property of the United States in the territory northwest of the Ohio, ought to be leased for a term of years. He cited that the salt resources were being exploited by private individuals and that timber within the area was being wasted. On March 3, 1803, Congress authorized the Secretary of the Treasury to lease the salt springs and salt licks for the benefit of the government. By this time Harrison was Governor of the Indiana Territory, and he leased the southern Illinois salines to a Captain Bell of Lexington, Kentucky. By act of Congress, March 26, 1804, all salt springs, wells and licks, with the necessary land adjacent thereto, were reserved from sale as the property of the United States.² The enabling act by which Illinois was authorized to adopt a constitution preparatory to statehood, contained seven sections, the sixth of which in part four conveyed title to the saline lands to the new state in the following words: "All salt springs within such state, and the land reserved for the use of the same shall be granted to the said state, for the use of said state, and the same to be used under such terms, and conditions, and regulations as the legislature of the said state shall direct; provided the legislature never shall sell, nor lease the same for a longer period than ten years at any one time."³

Barron's party located the springs and returned to Fort Harrison that Barron might make the necessary record of his discovery, and apply for the right to develop it. However, it was Truman Blackman, a member of Barron's party, who through treachery, organized a party without the knowledge or sanction of the real and rightful claimant to the salines, and went back to take possession of them. The party formed comprised, besides Blackman, his brother Remember, Seymore Treat, Peter Allen, Francis Whitcomb, and two brothers, George and Dan Beckwith, who did not start with the others from Fort Harrison, but joined them on the way at North Arm Prairie where they were living with Jonathan Mayo. The Beckwiths had come from New York state three years previous to this time and

1. L.1819, p. 114. Note: The Governor was authorized to lease to any person, persons or company, any quantity of land not exceeding one section, at any one place within the state for the purpose specified, "provided said lease did not affect in any way the rights of any individuals, nor Indians, nor extend to a longer period than ten years."
2. George W. Smith, "The Salines of Southern Illinois" in Transactions of Illinois State Historical Society 1904 (Springfield: Phillips Bros., State Printers, 1904), IX, 248.
3. Ibid., p. 249.

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located in Vigo County, Indiana, coming to North Arm Prairie in 1818.¹ Blackman's party encamped October 31, 1819, on the Big Vermilion, at a place where there was no vegetation. Investigation showed that the soil was saturated with brackish water. Peter Allen later wrote that the Indians had sunk curbs of bark into the soil for the purpose of obtaining salt water. The party tested the saline water by boiling it in a kettle brought along for the purpose; they found that about two gallons of water made four ounces of good clear salt. An experimental well was dug and water from this well contained a larger percent of salt.

Blackman made an agreement with Treat, Whitcomb, and the Beckwiths that they should be recognized as partners in the discovery of the salt springs, and that each should pay his portion of the expenses of their development. One of the Beckwiths and Whitcomb were left in charge of the springs and the others in the party returned to Fort Harrison to procure a team, tools, and provisions and to move Treat's family to the Vermilion salines. The latter part of November, 1819, Treat returned, coming up the Wabash and Vermilion rivers in a pirogue, with tools, provisions, and his wife and children. A cabin was built of small logs for the shelter of Treat's family; it was about fourteen feet square with one room. This was the first white settlement in the Vermilion country. Blackman made application in his own name to the Governor for permit to manufacture salt, and thus proved as dishonest with his companions as he had been with Barron. Complaint was entered by the other men as well as by Barron. On December 13, 1822, the conflicting claimants settled their differences at Vandalia before Governor Shadrach Bond in an agreement which defined the shares of each. In the meantime, several wells were sunk, one by the Beckwiths and Whitcomb at their own expense. Before Governor Bond could approve applications to lease the salines, he had to obtain from the Federal government the express designation and formal reservation of lands for the Vermilion Salines.²

1. Jones, Vermilion County, Illinois, p. 37,38,42,43,57,58; Beckwith, History of Vermilion County, p. 309-13.
2. Clint Clay Tilton, "John W. Vance and the Vermilion Salines" in Transactions of the Illinois Historical Society, 1931 (Springfield, Illinois), Publication 38, p. 157,158. Hereinafter referred to as Tilton, Transactions, 1931. Note: President James Monroe on March 26, 1824, proclaimed the tract to embrace forty-one sections in Township 19 north, ranges 12 and 13 west, embracing 24,869 acres. This area embraced section 16, which in every township had been granted to the state for the use of the inhabitants in such township for the use of schools. Later Governor Edward Coles successfully negotiated the presidential consent to change the school section of this particular township to section 28. Numerous affidavits and letters concerning the discovery of the salines and claims made by interested parties, together with the Governor's correspondence with respect to same, provide authentic data for the fixing of dates and supplying other material relative to the first white settlement in Vermilion County. They are to be found in the state archives.

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Vermilion's First Industry

Thus was begun the first industry in what was in a few years to become Vermilion County. Salt manufacturing increased but not in sufficient quantity to supply the growing demand. In the spring of 1824 the salt works were leased to Major John W. Vance, who brought twenty-four large iron kettles from Louisville, Kentucky, in a bateau down the Ohio to the mouth of the Wabash and thence up that stream to the Vermilion as far as the mouth of Stony Creek, about four miles southeast of where Danville now is. The boat was left there and the kettles were hauled by ox teams to their destination. The capacity of the springs soon justified the increase of the number of kettles to eighty, each holding one hundred gallons. A furnace was built of stone at a bench of the hill near the wells, and the kettles were set in a double row. It took a hundred gallons of water from the wells to make a bushel of salt. From 80 to 100 bushels was a good week's run. The state kept the Saline Reserves until 1829, when in accordance with an act providing for the sale of the Vermilion Saline reserve, they passed from the ownership of the state; but before they could be sold the Federal government had to give consent to their sale.¹ The salt works were an industry for many years afterward.

One of the historical ironies with which the record of all progress is replete, was that within 300 feet of the Old Salt Works furnace there was an outcropping of coal. Major Vance employed three men to cut wood for the fires, not knowing coal was fuel. Vance was a brother of ex-governor Joseph C. Vance of Ohio. The two were partners when the former secured control of the salines. The Salt Works were located about four miles west of Danville, in the river bottoms just south of the Salt Springs marker on highway route 10. Clint Clay Tilton, Vermilion County historian and editor, holds the original deed for the 80 acres on which the Salt Works were located. When the state sold the reservation that particular tract was bought jointly by Major Vance, Gurdon S. Hubbard, and United States Senator Samuel McRoberts.²

First Settlers

The way was now cleared for the land-hungry people of the East, and for the restless with pioneering qualities. Pioneers are a distinct and often a peculiar people; they are not commonly found, nor widely distributed. The building of the West was their achievement more than it was of people whose names are familiar in American history. Settlers increased in number. James D. Butler came from Clark County, Ohio, and

1. R.L.1827, p. 353; Jones, History of Vermilion County, p. 47.
2. Correspondence of Clint Clay Tilton of Danville, who is the maternal grandson of Major Vance. Note: Jones in her history of Vermilion County (see page 45) locates these springs on the north side of the river and about six miles west of Danville.

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took up a claim, or squatted, just west of Catlin before the land was surveyed. He had come from Vermont before settling in Ohio. Butler built a cabin and put in crops and then returned to Ohio. The next spring he brought his family with him to his claim that was isolated from the few people who then lived in the region. With Butler on his first trip had come two or three neighbors; they also went back to Ohio, but declined to return with him and make their home in a region where they feared they would be at the mercy of the bands of Indians then roving the region. Butler's nearest neighbor was Henry Johnson who lived on the Little Vermilion, and the Treat family who lived at the Salt Works. The loneliness and uncertainty of life among the Indians in this faraway place beyond civilization, was more than some of these would-be pioneers could face. The numbers who gave up the fight on the frontier have not always been reported. The written record is mostly of those whose mental and physical fortitude enabled them to endure the hardships of life demanded in conquest of the wilderness.

Within a few years, Butler's claim became an important settlement and was conspicuous in the affairs of the early days of the section. Robert Trickle, John Light, Asa Elliott, and Harvey Luddington came to the settlement, which became known as Butler's Point, where in after years a solitary oak tree stood out as a sentinel and a land mark that served as a guide to travelers crossing the prairies. "Butler's Lone Tree" and Butler's Point were to figure in the settlement of Vermilion County almost as much as the Salt Works. Francis Whitcomb moved from the Salt Works to Butler's Point, married, and made it his home for many years, living there until late in life when he moved farther west. All evidence of there having been a settlement at Butler's Point has now disappeared; nevertheless, it is historical ground.¹

Lewis Bailey made a clearing in the timber some six miles west of the Salt Works about two years after Butler's Point was settled. Bailey sold this land to Harvey Luddington for whom the little nearby stream was named "Luddington's Branch"; it is now called Stony Creek, the second stream of that name within the county limits. Henry Johnson began a settlement two miles west of present-day Georgetown by building a cabin on a section, afterwards called Johnson's Point. Absolom Starr, Johnson's brother-in-law, joined him the following year; also another brother-in-law by the name of Barnes came to the settlement. Jotham Lyons located on land just west of Johnson's Point and John Jordon settled a little east. Starr had come from Palestine (Crawford County) where the land office was located. He selected a tract which he thought he wanted and then went back to Palestine where he raised corn and wheat enough in the season of 1821 to last him and his family for a year. He then brought his family to Johnson's Point, where he built a cabin. Johnson wrote a letter to William Lowery, the member of the

1. Jones, Vermilion County, Illinois, p. 58,59.

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legislature from Clark County at that time, in which the date of the beginning of the settlement was fixed as "Achilles Township, November 22, 1822."¹

John Hoag and Samuel Munnell began a settlement north of the Little Vermilion, the year Henry Johnson settled south of that stream. This settlement was just south of the present village of Indianola. William Swank came to this section in 1820, and his farm included a part of the village of Indianola. Alexander McDonald came here in 1822, and with his father-in-law entered much land in this community, which became known as the McDonald Neighborhood.²

Benjamin Brooks came from Indiana and selected a place on the Little Vermilion for his future home; he returned to Indiana to bring his family, and while gone a certain Spence squatted on his land. Benjamin Canady, a tinker and peddler from Tennessee, had settled on land farther north where he let the Brooks family have land on which to build a cabin. During the first years of Vermilion County this location was known as Brooks' Point, a place later known as Kelleyville. Robert Cotton and Thomas O'Neal also came to this neighborhood. O'Neal was from Nelson County, Kentucky, and entered land in 1821 at Brooks' Point, near the Big Vermilion and Grape Creek. His son, James O'Neal, was the first white child born (April 20, 1822) in what is now Vermilion County.³ The community at the time was in the jurisdiction of Clark County. Subel Ellis, James Ogden, and John and Lewis Ritter settled in a neighborhood called Morgan's, just south of Brooks' Point. Jacob Brazelton settled just north of them. Achilles Morgan of Virginia, came bringing with him two daughters and their husbands, Henry Martin and George Brock; they located at first near Brooks' Point, but afterwards settled on land about three miles west of Georgetown, which location came to be known as Morgan's Place. Morgan's name was afterwards associated with public affairs of Vermilion County for many years. Descendants of this family are still to be found in the county. Mrs. Sadie Martin Tuggle, wife of Larkin A. Tuggle, county superintendent of schools, is the daughter of Dr. Franklin and Amanda Hewitt Martin. Dr. Martin was the grandson of Henry Martin, whose wife was Mary Morgan, the daughter of Achilles Morgan.⁴

An uncle of Absolom and Barnett Starr, both pioneers and among the earliest settlers, came from the northern part of Edgar County and bought 880 acres of land through which the Little Vermilion River flowed. Starr lived in Palestine and there bought much land for speculation.

1. Achilles Township evidently embraced the whole territory of Clark County watered by the two Vermilion Rivers and extending as far north as the Kankakee River.
2. Jones, Vermilion County, Illinois, p. 59.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid., p. 59, 60.

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through the land office. He traded the 880 acres to John Myers for 80 acres of land in Ohio. Myers, who was known as "Injun John" for his strongly frontier characteristics, on his way to Illinois offered his brother-in-law, Joseph Frazier, a quarter section of the new land if he would come with him, to which Frazier agreed. Simon Cox came to this same section and entered land. He and Myers attempted to build a mill; they first tried a water mill and then they put in steam; but as neither was a millwright they did not succeed, even with the help of Peter Summe. Moses Bradshaw came to the same neighborhood but stayed only a short time. The Richmond family was another of the casualties of the frontier; they lived in the region one winter and summer and then moved on;¹ apparently settlements were too dense for those and other pioneers who declined to live close enough to neighbors to hear the report of their shotguns.

John Malsby built a cabin in 1820 where Vermilion Grove was later located. Malsby was discouraged by the wild newness of the country and returned to his old home in Richmond, Indiana. When John Haworth came with his young family, originally from Tennessee, he found shelter already provided in the Malsby cabin. Haworth, who was a Quaker, had come from the South to get away from the institution of slavery. He entered several hundred acres of land about Vermilion Grove, but did not hold it for himself, nor sell it at high prices; rather, he sold the land at reasonable prices to those whom he thought would make good neighbors. Haworth's uncle, George, soon came to the neighborhood, and together with brothers and descendants made the name a respected one in the history of Vermilion County. This family constituted the beginnings of the Society of Friends (Quakers) in Illinois. Henry Canady came from Tennessee in 1821 and built a cabin one-half mile west of where the Vermilion Grove station now is, but his five sons insisted on returning to their home state; however, they soon returned to Illinois to settle down and make the new country their home. On the first trip they had brought some hogs, which, when they went back were turned loose in the woods and became wild. After that wild hogs were included in the game of hunters for some years.²

John Mills, a native of North Carolina and a member of the Society of Friends, settled among the Indians and wild animals and entered four and one-fourth sections of land. He built a log cabin with a puncheon floor, a great fireplace in one end of the room with a stick and clay chimney outside, and a clapboard roof. The house contained only one room, and a loft where the sons slept. The nearest trading post was Terre Haute, Indiana. Deer were numerous and settlers were able to kill them from their cabin doors. The wolves made the night dismal with their howling, and the chickens, pigs, and sheep had to be securely housed to protect them from the wolves. There were James Haworth, brother of John Haworth and father of eleven children, and Alexander McDonald who moved

1. Jones, Vermilion County, Illinois, p. 59,60.
2. Ibid., p. 60,61.

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to the timber of the Little Vermilion in 1822 - his neighbors were mostly Indians, bears, panthers, wild cats, and other wild creatures of which the woods were full.¹

The majority of the settlers of the region came from the South, some came from Ohio and a few from farther east. A large number were adherents of the faith of the Society of Friends, who were concerned in escaping the institution of slavery in southern states. The motives which influenced others were as varied as the directions from which they came. Some saw a future through the salt industry, some in the fur trade, and still others in the fertile land which was theirs for little more than the taking, and yet others came filled with the passion for adventure alone. Most of them clung to the timber for a decade; they were afraid of the prairie, were sure no one could live away from the timber, and that the prairie was fit only as range for their cattle.²

Vermilion County

Civil Government Established

While the Vermilion country was being settled, the County of Clark was further reduced in area, and Edgar County was organized, January 3, 1823, with Paris as the county seat. The Vermilion country was a part of the territory attached to Edgar County. Within three years this attached territory had so increased in population that Vermilion County was organized. In the meantime, Seymore Treat and Dan W. Beckwith had moved from the Old Salt Works to a location on the North Fork, later called Denmark. Treat built a mill there and operated it for some time. He was also justice of the peace while the community was a part of the unorganized territory of Edgar County, and while so serving performed the first marriage ceremony in the region. Beckwith opened a trading store in Denmark where he exchanged goods with the Indians for their furs.

An act establishing Vermilion County was approved by the Fourth Illinois General Assembly on January 18, 1826.³ There were nine sections in the act, which covered the essential phases of authorization for the creation and organization of a new county unit of state administration under the Constitution of 1818. Neither in the act, nor in the early records of the budding county is there any information about who or what groupings of citizens in the territory had prepared the way for the act of establishment. Some political expression of the intention must have arisen before among the early settlers

1. Jones, Vermilion County, Illinois, p. 60,61.
2. Ibid., p. 60-62.
3. L.1826, p. 50-52.

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then spread out along the two Vermilion Rivers. Agreement had already been reached over the name the new county was to bear. It was to be Vermilion County, and the home of James D. Butler at Butler's Point was to be the assembling place for the first term of the county commissioners' court, and the place for holding the election of county officers specified in the act. The officers were one sheriff, one coroner, and three county commissioners. That the leaders of the movement to form the new county were among those who participated in the early administration of its affairs, seems likely since they were those whose economic and social interests were most concerned with the undertaking.

The act of establishment fixed the western boundary of the county some ten miles west of its present position and the northern line about six miles south of what is now the line between Vermilion and Iroquois counties. The eastern line was the Indiana state line and the southern boundary was the northern line of Edgar County as it is today.¹ John Boyd and Joel Phelps of Crawford County, and Samuel Prevo of Clark County were named in the act as commissioners to fix the permanent seat of justice, or county seat. They, too, were to meet at the house of James Butler on the second Monday of the month of March next or within five days thereafter. They were to be sworn before some justice of the peace of the state, and were to "faithfully take into view the convenience of the people, the situation of the settlement, with an eye to the future population, and the eligibility of the place," and were to proceed to explore and carefully examine the county, and determine on and designate the permanent seat of justice. The act restricted the location of the county seat to land which the proprietors would give and convey by a deed of general warranty. It was to be a quantity of land in a square form, or not more than twice as long as wide, not less than twenty acres, and was to be laid out in lots, and sold by the county commissioners for the purpose of erecting public buildings, and for the general interest of the county. If the proprietor of the land selected declined to make the donation required in the act, then the commissioners were to fix the county seat upon the land of some person who would make the required donation. The commissioners were to make a certified report of their findings to the next county commissioners' court.²

1. L.1826, p. 50. "Be it enacted by the people of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly, that all that tract of country within the following bounds, to wit: Beginning on the state line between Illinois and Indiana, at the northeast corner of Edgar County; thence west with the line dividing townships number sixteen and seventeen, to the southwest corner of township seventeen north of range ten east of the third principal meridian; thence north to the northwest of township twenty-two north; thence east to the state line; thence south with the state line to the place of beginning, shall constitute a separate county to be called Vermilion."
2. Ibid., p. 51.

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In the event that the commissioners should fix on a location, the land of which was within the bounds of the Saline Reservation, or a tract of land which had not been offered for sale, on the Big Vermilion River, then, they were to make report and specify the quarter or half-quarter section to the county commissioners who were to proceed to purchase the same in their names for use of the county.¹ The commissioners were to receive in specie or its equivalent in state paper one dollar per day for every day they were necessarily employed in locating the seat of government.

Vermilion County was placed in the fifth judicial district, and courts were to be held therein on the fourth Monday in May and November. The election provided for was to be held on the first Monday of March next (1826). The clerk of the circuit court, and if there be none, then the recorder or judge of probate, was to give fifteen days notice previous to the election, and was to appoint the judges and clerks of the election. The clerk of the circuit court, the recorder or judge of the probate was to receive and open the election returns in the presence of two justices of the peace; and they jointly were to give certificates of election to the persons elected commissioners, and certificates to the sheriff and coroner to be forwarded to the Governor.²

The county was attached to the electoral district composed of the counties of Clark and Edgar, and was to vote in conjunction with those counties in all elections excepting for county offices. All that territory outside the county boundaries, and lying east of range six east of the third principal meridian, west and north of Vermilion County, as far north as the Illinois and Kankakee rivers, was attached to the county for all county purposes.³

The official life of the county began at Butler's Point with the holding of the commissioners' court at the residence of James Butler, March 6, 1826. The election having been held on the first Monday of March, the court convened immediately following the election. James Butler and Achilles Morgan, commissioners-elect, and Jacob Brazelton and Asa Elliott, justices of the peace-elect in and for said county, produced certificates of their being duly elected, together with a certificate of their having taken an oath to support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the State, and also the oath of office, according to law.⁴ "Thereupon a county commissioners' court was holden for Vermilion County at the house of James Butler in said county," stated the minutes of that first court. One of the transactions was the appointment of Amos Williams as clerk of the court, "he having been qualified and given bond and security according to the

1. L.1826, p. 52.

2. Ibid.

3. Ibid.

4. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 1.

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law."¹ Before the court adjourned that first session, Charles Martin was appointed a constable in and for the county. The court adjourned until it should be notified by the clerk that the commissioners appointed to locate the seat of justice were ready to make return of their findings.

The appearance of Amos Williams at this meeting of the commissioners' court had been prearranged. Williams was one of the prominent makers of Vermilion County; he had come from Pennsylvania and had settled in Paris, Edgar County, where he served as clerk of the court and surveyor; he had surveyed and platted Paris. J. B. Alexander, who was one of the newly elected commissioners, though he was not present at its first session, had been living in Paris and knew Williams. It was not easy to find among the settlers men qualified to fill the positions opened by the organization of the new county, and the commissioners induced Williams to come to Vermilion County. Williams had just married a daughter of Judge Shaw of Paris. Another daughter of the judge later became the wife of Dan W. Beckwith. Williams' name, like that of Beckwith's, was to become interwoven with the development of the county which he adopted as his permanent home in the West. As the clerk of the court in Edgar County he was legally qualified to meet the terms of the act of establishment, such as appointing judges of election and functioning as clerk of the circuit court.²

The first term of the circuit court was to be held in May; hence the board of county commissioners selected the grand jurors who were to serve.³ On March 18, 1826, the commissioners held another court at the house of James Butler. This time Achilles Morgan and John B. Alexander were present. Commissioner James Butler was absent. The first act of the court, spread in the minutes of this meeting, was that of dividing the county into civil townships. All that part of the county lying south of the center of (survey) township eighteen north was called Carroll Township, and all that tract of country lying north of (survey) township eighteen north was designated Ripley Township. The use of the township as a territorial division of the county was evidently a convenience resorted to by these pioneers, some of whom had been accustomed to it as an institution of public administration in the New England states. Early American settlers in Illinois came mostly from Virginia, Kentucky, and the Carolinas, and they preferred the county system of government with which they were familiar, and which the Constitution of 1818 provided. Emigrants from the New England and Middle Atlantic states favored the township-county system which prevailed in the states from which they came. The option of local government under county or township organization was later constitutionalized.

At once these public servants undertook to safeguard the school

1. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 1.

2. Ibid.

3. Ibid., p. 2.

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lands, and also to comply with the state legislation on the subject. Three trustees of school lands were to be appointed in each (survey) township by the county commissioners' court;¹ and forthwith trustees were appointed for each of two sections numbered 16, known as school sections. Timber thieves were prevalent and they made forays on school lands for timber. The trustees were concerned with the sale and leasing of school lands, as well as otherwise safeguarding the interest of the public in them. There was nothing, howsoever small, to be done in putting Vermilion County into effective administrative order that was overlooked by these founding fathers of the new county. With meticulous care they made the county an efficient unit of state government.

William Reed was appointed assessor for the county. Absolom Starr was appointed constable for the new Township of Carroll, and John Light constable for Ripley Township. William Bowen, Jesse Gilbert, and Thomas O'Neal were appointed as fence viewers in Ripley Township. John Mills, Isaac R. Moores, and Samuel Mundell were appointed as fence viewers for Carroll Township. And then as true builders and organizers of frontier life, these county fathers looked to the care of those whose tide of fortune had turned against them in the wilderness, where "milk sickness" and the fever and ague oftentimes laid whole settlements low in a plague that cursed domestic animals as well as human beings. The commissioners appointed George Ware and Isaac Gowen as overseers of the poor in Ripley Township; and Henry Johnsen and James McClure to the same service in Carroll Township.²

Locating the County Seat

In accordance with the act of establishment, the commissioners appointed to locate the county seat of justice appeared in court and made the following report: "State of Illinois, Vermilion County, we the undersigned commissioners appointed to locate the permanent seat of justice in and for said county, do hereby report that the east half of the south-east quarter of section seventeen in township nineteen north of range twelve west is the most eligible place agreeable to an act entitled 'an act establishing Vermilion County,' given under our hands and seals at the house of James Butler in said county, this 18th day of March, A.D., 1826. (Signed) John Boyd, Joel Phelps, Sam Prevo." The report was ordered entered on record and filed in the clerk's office. They had located the county seat some six miles west of the North Fork of the Big Vermilion River and a short distance south of the Salt Fork. The selection proved to be an unfortunate one and was rejected by the people. The dissatisfied citizens sent a remonstrance to the General Assembly, coupling it with a prayer for the removal of the county seat to a more

1. L.1819, p. 107,108.

2. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 2,3.

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favorable location.¹ The site selected was a part of the leasehold of Major John W. Vance, who had taken over the Salt Works for a term of years and refused to yield his rights. The act of establishment had foreseen the possibility that the county seat might be located on the state-owned Saline Lands, and had made provision for the purchase of the same from the state.²

At the opening of the next court of the county commissioners, Amos Williams was appointed county agent. Whether this new function was added to Williams' duties as county clerk and clerk of the circuit court to give him sufficient work to occupy all of his time, or whether it was because there was a shortage of qualified persons to serve in these capacities, is not explained in the minutes of the court. William Reed, who had been appointed assessor by the court at its previous meeting, was also present as sheriff at the session of the court held June 5, 1826. The three county commissioners were all present at this meeting held at the home of James Butler. The first money paid out of the county funds by order of the court was \$1.00 ordered paid to Charles Martin for his services in attendance as constable at the last term of the circuit court held in May.³ Amos Williams was allowed \$10.00 for stationery furnished for the circuit and commissioners' courts as per the account filed by Williams. John Boyd, one of the commissioners appointed to locate the seat of justice, was allowed the sum of \$11.00 for eleven days' services. William Reed, assessor and sheriff, was allowed \$17.25 for distributing court orders for the March term, summoning the grand jury to the May term, services as assessor and for attendance at the circuit court as per account filed. The first personal property tax levied for the county was a tax of one cent per dollar of valuation on "horses and cattle over the age of three years, watches, clocks, pleasure carriages and stock in trade."

At once the commissioners began the long and arduous administrative work of making the prairies accessible to the trade and commerce of an agricultural population. Road building was to be the major enterprise of the county for a quarter of a century. Burgess Squires was appointed supervisor of the road leading from Paris to the Salt Works, from the south line of Ripley Township to the place where the road from Coleman's prairie intersects said road. Supervisor Squires was allotted the services of "all hands on sections 28, 33, and 34 in township 19 north, range 12 west, except Robert Trickle." Francis Whitcomb was appointed road supervisor of the road leading from the Salt Works to Coleman's prairie, "to the west line of the section 1, T. 18 N., R. 12 W., to the south line of Ripley Township with an allotment of all hands at or within one mile of the Salt Works, and also Robert Trickle." Other

1. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 3,4; Beckwith, History of Vermilion County, p. 322; Jones, Vermilion County, Illinois, p. 88,89.

2. L. 1826, p. 52.

3. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 5.

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supervisors appointed at the same time and given special roads for their supervision were Isaac M. Howard, Abraham Smith, Thomas Rees, Absolom Starr, Isaac Moores, Joel Haworth. Each supervisor was allotted a number of hands; that is, citizens in the vicinity of the specified roadway were named to render service in the maintenance of the highways. Two of the roadways were to be opened at $16\frac{1}{2}$ feet in width.¹

The townships of Ripley and Carroll were formed into election precincts. The house of James Butler was named as the voting place of the former, and Seymore Treat, Asa Elliott, and Jacob Brazelton were appointed judges for the precinct. Elections in Carroll precinct were to be held in the house of Henry Johnson, and Johnson, Henry Martin, and Robert Dixon were named judges of election. Again the court selected the panel for the grand jury for the next term of the circuit court, and this time a panel for the petit jury.² John Lamb was appointed trustee of the school lands of section 16, T. 20 N., R. 11 W. to take the place of John Currant, excused.³

On the second day of September, 1826, Amos Williams, clerk of the county commissioners' court, granted certificates of service as follows: John E. Alexander for two days at \$1.50 per day, \$3.00; Achilles Morgan, for two days at \$1.50 per day, \$3.00; and James Butler, for one day at \$1.50 per day, \$1.50. On September 4, 1826, Achilles Morgan, Asa Elliott, and James McClure took the oath of office as county commissioners at the house of James Butler, having been duly elected for the County of Vermilion. Samuel Prevo, one of the commissioners who had been appointed to locate the seat of justice, was allowed the sum of \$11 for eleven days' service in locating the same. Trustees of two other school sections of land were appointed, and Alexander McDonald was made overseer of the poor for Carroll Township to take the place of James McClure, excused. Joel Phelps was allowed the sum of \$12.00 for service as commissioner appointed to locate the seat of justice. The sheriff was allowed fifty cents in specie in lieu of \$1.00 in state paper for collecting the revenue of the county for the year 1826.⁴

1. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 6,7.

2. Ibid., p. 7,8.

3. Ibid., p. 9.

4. Ibid., p. 10,11; Theodore Calvin Pease, The Frontier State, 1818-1843, v. II of The Centennial History of Illinois (Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co., 1919) p. 52-69. Note: The evolution of a uniform system of currency and sound banking was a very slow and costly process. As Pease states: "The public finance of early Illinois introduces the student to a strange world, in which currency normally circulates at a score of different discounts from par, in which banks are organized to loan money on the state's credit to hard-pressed citizens, and in which the state derives but a small portion of its little revenue from the taxation of its own citizens. Illinois state finances, while not expressed in sufficiently great sums to be impressive, are sufficiently bizarre to be interesting."

Amos Williams, already holding three county offices, became judge of the probate court, as was indicated by the minutes of the court of county commissioners, December 11, 1826, when it was ordered that Williams, "judge of the probate," be allowed \$3.44 for one record book furnished for the court of probate, and that the clerk grant an order for the payment of the same. The court of probate at this time consisted in each county of one judge appointed by the General Assembly.¹

Clerks of election were paid at the rate of twenty-five cents a day. Esau Johnson was allowed twenty-five cents in specie for one day's service as clerk on November 18, 1826, and John Jordan was allowed fifty cents in specie for serving two days, August 7, and November 18, 1826. Henry Martin was allowed fifty cents for serving two days as clerk of elections, and fifty cents in specie for returning the polls of these elections. The designation of specie payment was due to the uncertain value of note issues in circulation in western trade. Illinois was poor and the good eastern money brought in by the immigrants found its way to the land offices and from them it was drawn into the government treasury to be spent in the East.²

The trail of the Indian and the track of the buffalo were gradually giving way to a network of highways. However, many of them still led to and from the Salines, which were then the center of the settlements. Petitions for new roadways were received and their sites were ordered viewed. William Reed, sheriff and assessor, reported to the commissioners that the tax levy for 1826 was \$205.59 in state paper, on which he claimed a deduction for delinquents of \$7.03 and also seven and one-half percent for collecting, or \$14.89. This left \$183.07, which was equal in specie to \$91.83 $\frac{1}{2}$. Reed produced orders which he had paid to the amount of \$48.37 $\frac{1}{2}$, and he claimed two percent (\$0.96 3/4) for paying these orders, leaving a balance of \$42.49 $\frac{1}{4}$ subject to the order of the court.³ Reed was allowed \$10.90 for attendance at court and for distributing court orders of the June and September terms, and for summoning grand jurors to the December term of the circuit court. Amos Williams was allowed \$15.00 for his ex-officio services as clerk of the county commissioners' court for the year 1826.

On December 26, 1826, the General Assembly amended the act establishing Vermilion County to the effect that William Morgan, Zachariah Peter, and John Kirkpatrick of Sangamon County were appointed commissioners, who were to "designate the place that shall forever remain the permanent seat of justice of the said county." The proprietors of the land selected were to convey by deed of general warranty for the use of the county a quantity of land, not less than twenty acres, to be laid out

1. L.1821, p. 119,121.

2. Pease, The Frontier State, p. 52,53; Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 12.

3. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 13.

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into lots, and sold, the deeds made therefor by the county commissioners, for the purpose of erecting public buildings, and the interest of the county generally. However, the amendment to the act specified that should the commissioners appointed finally decide that the proper place for the seat of justice was within the Saline Reservation of land, they were in that case authorized to locate the same, and the state of Illinois should then "transfer all claim, right and title to any half quarter section, not exceeding 30 acres thereof in said reserve, upon which the same may be located for the use of said county for the purpose aforesaid." The commissioners were to make report to the county commissioners' court at the next March term. The commissioners were to receive \$2 per day each, cash, for the time necessarily employed in the performance of their duties. The first commissioners had received only \$1 a day each.¹

Up to this time no settlement had been made on the Big Vermilion River at the mouth of the North Fork on the site of the old Indian Village of Piankeshaw. Denmark was an ambitious settlement to the north and was desirous for the county seat, and would have secured it could the commissioners have agreed. The land at the mouth of the North Fork had been entered by certain people, among whom were Dan W. Beckwith and Guy W. Smith. Beckwith had lived at the Salt Works and was one of the men who claimed its discovery. Beckwith and Smith offered to donate to the county the required amount of land, and after deliberation the offer was accepted and the commissioners so reported to the court, January 31, 1827. Smith's donation was sixty, and Beckwith's twenty acres.² The findings of the commissioners were filed in the clerk's office, subject to the order of the court of the county commissioners at the next term, which convened at the house of James Butler, March 5, 1827. Before adjourning the January term, the court allowed commissioners Morgan, Peters, and Kirkpatrick each \$34 in specie for seventeen days' services they had performed in locating the permanent seat of justice. The court also ordered that the clerk advertise the sale of the lots in Danville, the county seat of Vermilion County, to take place on April 10, 1827, by publication in the Illinois Intelligencer, published at Vandalia, and also in a paper published in Indianapolis, Indiana, every other week for three issues.³

Here is it observed that the minutes record the name of the county seat as Danville, even before the court had taken action on the report of the commissioners.⁴ This was in January and action was deferred until the March term, even though the donated land had been ordered advertised. Amos Williams and Dan W. Beckwith were brothers-in-law, and local history recorded that the two men talked over the matter of a name for the county seat. Williamsburg, Smithville, and other names were mentioned; then Williams turned to his pioneer friend and said:

1. Priv. L.1827, p. 3,4.
2. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 14,21; Jones, Vermilion County, Illinois, p. 89,90.
3. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 14,15.
4. Ibid.

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"Dan, it shall have your name. Why not? You have done all the work. We will call it Danville." Beckwith was a tall man, broad of shoulders, straight, muscular, and spare of flesh, weighing when in health about 190 pounds. He was an expert axe man and a shrewd Indian trader, establishing himself at Denmark at first, and then moving to Danville where he continued his trading.¹

The court convened March 5, transacted some business, and adjourned until March 6, when the commissioners were mostly occupied with road construction, road viewing, and petitions for new highways. The Salt Works were of sufficient importance to settlers living in distant counties and in Indiana to make the opening of roadways to the Salines a pressing business. Thirteen separate items dealing with highways were considered by the commissioners, along with appointment of trustees for the section 16 of (survey) townships, naming panels for the grand and petit juries, and appointments of constables and overseers of the poor.² The court adjourned to convene again March 26, 1827, without having acted on the report of the commissioners for locating the permanent seat of justice.

However, on the day appointed the court convened and at once considered the report. At the same time it was ordered that the court would hereafter be held at the house of Asa Elliott, a commissioner, until otherwise ordered. Elliott lived in a log house, about a quarter of a mile from the west line of Catlin village at what was then Butler's Point settlement. The report of the commissioners was received and ordered recorded; it said in part: "The lands donated by G. W. Smith and D. W. Beckwith near the mouth of the North Fork of the Big Vermilion is the proper place for the permanent seat of justice for said County of Vermilion, to wit: twenty acres off the east side of the east half of the northwest fraction of section 8, township 19, north of range 11 west; and also sixty acres of land bounded as follows to wit: Beginning at the southeast corner of the west half of the northeast quarter of section 8, township 19 north, range 11 west, thence south to the Big Vermilion River, thence up said stream to the south boundary of east fraction of the northwest quarter of section 8, township 19 north, range 11 west, thence to the place of beginning; and what said bounds lack of sixty acres to be taken off the south end of the west half of the northeast quarter of section 8, township 19 north, range 11 west."³

At the same meeting, Guy W. Smith produced a deed for sixty acres of land which the court accepted under advisement until the next term. It was not until September 2, 1828, that D. W. Beckwith presented a deed for his 20 acres, being a part of the land on which the city of Danville is now located. On June 5, 1827, the court examined and ordered Smith's deed received and recorded. In both instances the court

1. Jones, Vermilion County, Illinois, p. 90.

2. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 16-20.

3. Ibid., p. 21.

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released the donors from bonds which had been held by the court.¹ At the term held on March 26, the court ordered that the lots in the town of Danville be sold on a credit of six, twelve, and eighteen months with interest from the date unless punctually paid, and that eight percent per annum be allowed as discount for prompt payment. Harry Luddington was employed as "crier" of the lots for the sale ordered on April 10, 1827. Luddington was to receive \$1.00 a day as wages. Dan W. Beckwith, county surveyor, was employed to lay off one hundred lots in Danville and make return to the clerk of the court on or before April 9; his compensation was not to exceed \$10.00 exclusive of chain carriers.

More Early Administrative History

Beckwith was appointed county treasurer and was required to enter bond "in penalty of one thousand dollars, conditioned according to law." He also qualified as constable at this meeting of the court, and was one appointed to view a road "commencing at the state line west of Covington which is the seat of justice for Fountain County, Indiana, thence west" to Pilot Grove and westerly on the best route to intersect the state road on a direction to Fort Clark.²

On June 4, 1827, George Ware, Joel B. Hawkins, Henry Stevenson, and Jesse Gilbert were each allowed sums for services in laying out lots in Danville, and the clerk was ordered to grant an order on the county agent for payment of same. Amos Williams was county agent as well as clerk, and D. W. Beckwith was county treasurer. John Light, Thomas O'Neal, and William Bowen were each allowed sums for carrying chain in laying off the land for the county seat. Amos Wooden was appointed constable for Ripley Township and forthwith took an oath to support the Constitutions of the United States and of Illinois, and also the oath on dueling prescribed by the statute.³ On June 5, the court ordered that the county be divided into four election districts; one was named Georgetown where elections were to be held at the house of James Haworth; another was named Carroll where elections were to be held at the house of James McClure; the third was called Danville where elections were to be held at the house of Amos Williams; the fourth district was named Union, and all elections were to be held at the house of Jesse Williams. Judges of election were appointed, three for each district. Amos Williams, county agent, reported that he had sold 42 lots in the town of Danville for the sum of \$922.87 $\frac{1}{2}$. The county agent was ordered to advertise a sale of lots in the town of Danville to take place September 5, 1827, on a credit of six, twelve, and eighteen months. Hereafter the county commissioners were to meet at the house of Amos Williams at

1. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 31,58. Apparently Smith and Beckwith each had given a bond of surety for deeds forthcoming, which enabled the court to proceed to lay plans for the sale of lots and otherwise develop the permanent seat of justice.
2. Ibid., p. 22,23.
3. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 37; Constitution of 1818, Schedule, sec. 11.

Danville until otherwise ordered by the court.¹

When the court convened September 3, 1827, at the house of Amos Williams, Danville began to function as the county seat of Vermilion County. The first act of the court at this meeting was to allow Philip Stanford \$1.50 for two days' services in laying out lots in Danville. Qualification of constables was frequently a matter of court action in the early days. The setting up of a frontier society, governed by law and not by fisticuffs and violence, was assiduously supervised by the founders of the county, as much so as was the supervision of locating and constructing highways. Hardly a meeting of the court was held when no new road was authorized in the first years of the county's existence.² Asa Elliott, a member of the court of county commissioners, had advanced \$3.59 to defray the expense of obtaining a deed from Guy W. Smith for the sixty acres he had donated for the county seat; the court ordered on September 4, that the county agent pay for the same. Dan W. Beckwith was allowed \$20.50 for surveying the town of Danville. He was also allowed \$13.00 for services as assessor for the year 1827.

As yet there was no public building in Danville. On September 4, 1827, the court ordered that a stray pound be constructed. It was to be 40 feet square, to be erected of good sound white oak posts, 4 x 8 inches, set firmly $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet in the ground. The enclosure was to be $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, made in such a manner to keep out hogs and to have a gate 4 feet wide, hung with good and sufficient iron hinges, hasps, staples, padlock and key; all of the above work to be done in a good and sufficient workmanlike manner. The pound was to be completed by the first day of the next term of court. Amos Williams, county agent, was authorized to receive county orders drawn on the county treasurer for the first payment on lots in Danville to an amount not exceeding \$100.00. On December 3, 1827, the court examined and accepted the stray pound, constructed by Philip Stanford, and for which he was paid \$9.93 3/4. Amos Williams was appointed to care and keep the stray pound of the county.³

The next public building to be constructed was the jail. On March 4, 1828, the court ordered the jail built. It was to be "29 feet in length by 17 feet in width, on the outside; one story high, 8 feet between floors, the foundation to be dug one foot deep and 3 feet wide around the outside squares of the criminal's apartment and 15 inches for the debtor's apartment, and a good and sufficient foundation of stone built therein, so that no part of the building will be nearer to the ground than one foot, and said jail to be erected on said foundation of good sound white oak timber, 12 inches thick, squared, and the walls of the criminal's apartment to be double."

1. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 28-31.
2. Ibid., p. 32-34.
3. Ibid., p. 36,37.

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There was to be a window 2 feet long and 6 inches high in each of the two apartments. The grating for the window in the apartment of the debtor was to be 1 inch square and 1' inch apart, while the grating in the criminal's room was to be double of the above description.¹ Sealed proposals were received until the next term of the court, and suggestions for improvements in the plans were solicited. In July, 1827, an act concerning jails and jailers in Illinois came into force. The law required that a jail be maintained in each county at the permanent seat of justice. It was unlawful for any sheriff or jailer to confine or keep debtors, and persons committed for crime in the same room.² Imprisonment for debt was unconstitutional, unless upon refusal of the debtor to deliver his estate for the benefit of his creditors, in such manner as was prescribed by law, or in cases where there was strong presumption of fraud.³ ..

Samuel Gilbert sought a license to keep a tavern at his dwelling in Ripley Township. He was required to pay \$1 and the lawful fees and to enter into bond and surety according to law. John W. Vance of the Salt Works, sought a license to keep a tavern at the Vermilion Saline in Ripley Township. He too was required to give bond and pay the required fees. Tavern rates were fixed by the court as follows: for a pint or half a pint of whiskey, $12\frac{1}{2}$ cents; for a quart of whiskey, 25 cents; for a single horse feed, $16\frac{1}{4}$ cents; for lodging, $16\frac{1}{4}$ cents; for a meal of victuals, $18\frac{3}{4}$ cents; for a horse at corn and hay overnight, $18\frac{3}{4}$ cents.⁴ A tax of one-half percent was levied on horses and cattle over three years old, watches, clocks, pleasure carriages and stock in trade. This was half the rate of the first personal property tax levied in June, 1826; and it indicated an increase in amount of taxable wealth in the new county.⁵

On June 2, 1828, the court accepted an amendment to the plans for the county jail; the structure was to be further strengthened and made secure by the use of iron bars and substantial workmanship. The jail was to be completed on or before the first Monday in March, 1829.⁶ George Haworth was the lowest bidder, and on June 3, 1828, he was granted the contract for \$300; he was advanced \$100 with which to purchase iron and nails for the building. On the same day Robert Trickle relinquished his right of establishing a ferry across the Big Vermilion River near Danville. The license to keep and operate the ferry was then granted to Samuel Gilbert. The following rates were established by the court; for crossing man and horse, $12\frac{1}{2}$ cents; for crossing wagon and horse, $18\frac{3}{4}$ cents; for wagon and two horses or oxen, 25 cents; for every

1. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 44, 45.

2. R.L.1827, p. 246, 247.

3. Constitution of 1818, Art. VIII, sec. 15.

4. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 45, 46.

5. Ibid., p. 46.

6. Ibid., p. 50.

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additional horse or ox, $6\frac{1}{4}$ cents; for a single footman, $6\frac{1}{4}$ cents; for hogs and sheep per head, 1 cent; for loose cattle or horses per head, 2 cents; for persons going to or returning from mill, half the above rates.¹ It will be noticed that prices, rates, and wages often included schedules fixed in fractional portions of the lowest denomination of the monetary system - the cent. This was a recognition of the variations among persons in their resources with which to carry on trade and make exchanges in services and goods. The privations and limitations of frontier life required careful economy, and often frugality was carried to the point of what in more prosperous periods would be called parsimony.

Amos Williams was reappointed county agent, which was the final act of the county commissioners before the expiration of their terms. When next the court convened the last member who had been a commissioner from the court's inception had retired, or had been replaced by a newly elected commissioner. Achilles Morgan, the Virginian who had been from the time he came to the Vermilion country a leading man of the affairs of the county, retired from the court. The places of James Butler and John B. Alexander had been taken by James McClure and Asa Elliott. When the next term of court convened, September 1, 1828, McClure and Elliott were replaced as commissioners by James Newell and Stephen Griffith. The county had been established more than two years and the three men who had organized it and set going the machinery of its government, had been replaced; but Amos Williams remained, serving in a multiple of functions with his customary painstaking industry.²

A Courthouse is Planned

To Williams' other duties the court added another on September 2, 1828; that of commissioner "to sell, dispose of and convey any of the real estate of and belonging to the County of Vermilion according to law." More lots on the north and east side of Danville were ordered laid out. Some of these were not to exceed five acres each. A sale of lots in Danville was ordered for October 28 of that year. Williams, as county agent, was ordered to lend the funds in his hands belonging to the county; good security and six percent interest per annum were required, and loans were not to exceed \$100 each. It would thus appear that the county's financial condition was good and that through thrift in political housekeeping, the founding fathers had builded wisely and well; so well in fact, that now the new administrators could proceed with plans for construction of a courthouse. Williams was ordered to give public notice that proposals and plans would be received for the construction of a permanent courthouse, and also proposals would be received for the building of a temporary courthouse 30 feet long by 20 feet wide.³

1. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 51.

2. Ibid., p. 52, 53; Jones, Vermilion County, Illinois, p. 121, 122.

3. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 58-60.

More Court Routine

A license was granted to George Haworth to keep a tavern at his dwelling in Danville, provided he find house room for holding courts in the county, pay the lawful fees, and enter into bond and security according to law. This he apparently did, for the commissioners ordered that hereafter courts would be held at the house of George Haworth. So when the county court next met on December 1, 1828, it convened at its fourth temporary place of assembly in the private house of a citizen. Before adjournment on September 2, the court had ordered that the west half of lots 4 and 3 south, and 1 east, be appropriated for a schoolhouse for the citizens of Danville and its vicinity, provided that the said schoolhouse also be available for the use of the courts and for public worship whenever needed. A general warranty deed was ordered made for the same. In the minutes of this (December 1, 1828) session there first appears the name of Colonel Gurdon S. Hubbard, trailmaker, fur trader, frontier soldier, pioneer meat packer, insurance underwriter, banker, tavern keeper, et cetera, who was associated with the growth of Danville as he was with the building of Chicago. Hubbard's name first appears in the administrative history of Vermilion County in connection with the granting of a license to retail liquor at his store in Danville.¹

The court established additional rates for retailers of spiritous liquors, including in the price list already fixed the following: for a half pint of brandywine, shrub or Jamaica spirits, 25 cents; for a pint of any of the above liquors, $37\frac{1}{2}$ cents; for a half pint of peach brandy, cordial or gin, $12\frac{1}{2}$ cents; for a pint of peach brandy, cordial or gin, $18\frac{3}{4}$ cents. Before the court adjourned this session on December 2, 1828, Amos Williams as county agent, was ordered to pay out of the funds in his hands to Sheriff William Reed \$200.00 in specie for a house and lot by him sold to the county commissioners for the use of the county.² On March 4, 1829, the county commissioners ordered that George Haworth be allowed the sum of \$171.25 in full payment of the amount due him for building the jail. At the same session Dan W. Beckwith, county treasurer, reported that there was a balance on hand subject to the order of the court of $\$47.75\frac{3}{4}$ in specie, and $\$205.42\frac{2}{3}$ in state paper. At this meeting Josiah Alexander was appointed county treasurer to succeed Beckwith. On December 8, of the same year Treasurer Alexander reported on hand due the county $\$63.00\frac{2}{3}$ in specie, and $\$210.52\frac{2}{3}$ in state paper.³

In June, 1829, the clerk of the court of county commissioners was ordered to procure from Louisville or Cincinnati for the county, standard weights and measures "agreeable to the laws of Illinois." At the

1. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 60,63; Henry Raymond Hamilton, The Epic of Chicago (Chicago: Willett, Clark & Company, 1932), p. 337-55. Hereinafter referred to as Hamilton, The Epic of Chicago.
2. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 65,67.
3. Ibid., p. 77,80,110.

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meeting of the court, December 8, 1829, the clerk was ordered to give public notice that standard weights and measures would be provided by the county commissioners. One-half bushel of flaxseed was obtained for the purpose of trying the dry measure. Thus in the administration of the laws, the court undertook to protect the citizens from fraud and cheating.¹ Gurdon S. Hubbard was authorized, March 3, 1830, to procure an official seal for the County of Vermilion. The clerk of the county court was directed to obtain weights as follows: one weight of 14 pounds, one weight of 28 pounds, and one weight of 56 pounds.² Amos Williams, judge of the probate court, clerk of the court of county commissioners, clerk of the circuit court, county agent, first postmaster at Danville,³ and commissioner to sell real estate belonging to Vermilion County, resigned his post as keeper of the stray pound, and Nathaniel Breezley was appointed in his stead.⁴

Building the First Courthouse

By the time of these latter administrative acts, the court of county commissioners was being held for the first time in what was called in the record of the court's proceedings the "courthouse." The county was established January 18, 1826, and the first meeting of the court was held at the "house of James Butler," March 6, 1826. More than three years passed before even a makeshift courthouse was provided. In the meantime all court functions had been held in the private houses of four different citizens, each of whom was importantly connected with opening the frontier, and in establishing a county government in the Vermilion wilderness. Action leading to the construction of a permanent courthouse had been taken by the court on September 2, 1828. At the same time the building of a temporary house was ordered.⁵ As recorded above, the commissioners three months later purchased for \$200 in specie a house and lot from William Reed, the sheriff. It was not until December 7, 1829, that there was any record of this house being used for county purposes; then, the minutes of the court stated that "the term of county commissioners' court was held at the courthouse in Danville, Vermilion County, Illinois."⁶

This house was used as the courthouse until it was sold for \$350 to Hezekiah Cunningham at the March 10, 1831, term of court. Cunningham was to have possession from the date of his finding a courtroom for the use of the county for a term of two years, unless a new courthouse were ready by or before the expiration of two years. Payments were to be made on the purchase price, which netted the county a profit of \$150, in six, twelve, and eighteen months after date of purchase.⁷ The house sold

1. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 89,110.

2. Ibid., p. 131.

3. Laverne Miller and Marie Kirkpatrick, "The First Post Office at Danville" in Stories of Historical Days in Vermilion County, Illinois, compiled by L. A. Tugle, County Superintendent of Schools, p. 46,70.

4. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 102.

5. Ibid., p. 60.

6. Ibid., p. 104.

7. Ibid., p. 182,183; Jones, Vermilion County, Illinois, p. 90,91.

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to Cunningham was built of logs hewn inside and out; it stood on a lot on the south side of West Main Street, near Vermilion; it was one-story, with a low attic space of about 16 feet square. The room Cunningham provided for holding court was in the upper story of a large frame building that was on the southwest corner of the public square.¹ However, the next meeting of the court was held at the house of Amos Williams, April 7, 1831. In June of the same year the court held a meeting in the courthouse, but the special term of court held June 15 of the same year was again convened in Williams' house. Again at the September term, the court met at the courthouse.² Then after several successive meetings of the court at Williams' house, the commissioners ordered at the session held December 6, 1831, that the court be held at the Williams' house until otherwise ordered by the court.³

While holding its sessions in the first provisional courthouse, the court on September 7, 1830, ordered again that a notice be given that proposals would be received for the building of a permanent courthouse, nothing having been accomplished on the matter as the result of the solicitation for proposals in September of 1828. On this attempt to revive the enterprise for a permanent county building with offices and court rooms, bids and specifications were solicited as follows: "first, for a stone foundation, ready to receive the brick, second, brick delivered on the ground by the thousand; third, deliver the brick in the wall by the thousand; fourth, timbers and pillars for the first and second floors; fifth, timbers for starting the cupola; sixth, roof for building; seventh, three floors; eighth, sixteen windows and two doors."⁴ The next step in the long drawn out process of getting a courthouse for Vermilion County, was that of making a contract with Joseph Wiley, December 7, 1830, for the making of brick for the proposed structure at the rate of \$3.25 per thousand. After entering into bond and providing security, Wiley was advanced \$81.25 on the occasion in order to enable him to carry on the work. In March of the following year Wiley again received an equal sum, making a total of \$162.50 advanced for a project which he did not complete. Almost a year later, November 11, 1831, John H. Murphy, surety for Wiley, returned to the county \$190.93, which was more than the amount advanced.⁵

Again on December 6, 1831, the court ordered public notice given that on the first Saturday in January, 1832, proposals would be received for building a courthouse in Danville. The next step taken in this slow moving process was on January 7, 1832, when the court ordered the county agent to pay to Gurdon S. Hubbard on March 15, 1832, \$600, which was advanced to him toward the construction of the courthouse. On

1. Jones, Vermilion County, Illinois, p. 91.

2. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 185, 189, 210.

3. *Ibid.*, p. 222, 223.

4. *Ibid.*, p. 152.

5. *Ibid.*, p. 219. Note: Whether the excess was paid as interest, the records do not explain, which omission is a departure from the customary meticulousness of the minutes of the court.

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March 6 of the same year Hubbard was authorized to procure lightning rods of proper size for the structure.¹ Hubbard was the contractor, though the minutes of the court do not record the fact; nevertheless, the transactions the court had with the noted fur trader and frontiersmen indicate that Hubbard's bid, whatever it was, had been accepted. No contract sum, or specifications and plans were given in the minutes of the court's proceedings. It is only from other and secondary sources that these have been ascertained.

The procedure in building the courthouse was altogether different from that followed in the construction of the stray pound and the jail. The court forthwith determined the plans, materials, and quality of workmanship to be used in the construction of the stray pound and jail; and everything was done with dispatch. Building a courthouse was a different kind of public enterprise, and the process of its materialization was of necessity more complicated; but certainly there was much indecisiveness and postponement in the procedure pursued. It was a sort of piecemeal, pay-as-you-go enterprise, and continued over a number of years - from 1828 to 1836. Items related to the bringing of this house to completion are found scattered throughout 391 pages of the court's minutes: from page 60 of volume A to page 165 of volume B. In fact the site for the courthouse was not selected until July 7, 1832, which was six months after Hubbard was granted the contract for the work, and four years after the court first announced its intentions and gave public notice that it would receive plans and bids.²

When Hubbard undertook the job the fur trade in which he had been engaged had declined because of the scarcity of fur-bearing animals. A year later Hubbard removed to Chicago where he established a permanent residence in 1833. He had by that time done much toward giving the county and its county seat a favorable start.³ Hubbard had already constructed the first frame building in Danville and in the county about 1827. His store in Danville was the headquarters for fur trade among the Indians of the surrounding country. It was about that time that this prairie hunter purchased the entire interests of the American Fur Company in Illinois, of which he had been the agent; he established trading posts along many of the rivers of the Illinois country. His business was successful, but by 1830 it commenced to take on more of the nature of trade with settlers, who were coming into the country, and less that of trade with the Indians. The fur trade was doomed, and Chicago, which had lain dormant for fifteen years, began to show signs of life; thither Hubbard went, but did not at once give up his interests in the Vermilion country.⁴ In various capacities he performed many valuable services for the young county; he did not hold office, but was often an adviser to

1. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 223, 225, 241.

2. Ibid., p. 260.

3. Beckwith, History of Vermilion County, p. 335; Hamilton, The Epic of Chicago, p. 161.

4. Hamilton, The Epic of Chicago, p. 156-61.

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the officials, and sometimes served on commissions as a promoter of the county's interests. He performed his duties as a citizen, functioning in the minor details of civic life as well as in the major ones.¹ In the matter of the projected courthouse, it would seem from the court's records that it required some of Hubbard's initiative and enterprise to get it under way. It is apparent that his contract to build the house was limited to certain sections of the construction. Various persons were given contracts for other sections. At this time Hubbard was itinerating about the country, and frequently between Danville and Chicago; however, he kept the license fee on his Danville tavern paid, and also made use of a license to peddle clocks in the county and state, having been granted a permit in 1831 for that purpose by the county court.²

What happened and when after Hubbard was authorized (before the site for the courthouse had been selected) to procure lightning rods may be ascertained only by piecing together matter from primary and secondary sources. The chronology of the administrative phases of building the structure is not easily followed. Items in the court's records are not sufficiently explicit to reveal a clearcut plan of action. A summary of the procedure follows.

Thomas Durham was appointed June 28, 1832, to inspect the brick in the kiln and determine whether they were suitable for the building.³ Secondary sources say that the bricks were made by Norman D. Palmer at his farm northwest of Danville.⁴ On July 9, County Treasurer Josiah Alexander was ordered to pay Amos Williams \$400 for the purpose of enabling him to comply with a court order made on July 7, and to enable him to lend Palmer any sum not exceeding \$50 at the rate of ten percent interest. Palmer was to use the money to buy lumber for the courthouse. On July 7, the court also ordered that thereafter meetings would be held at the house of Hezokiah Cunningham, but designated that the probate court would be held at the house of Amos Williams. At the same session the court ordered that the courthouse be built on "the northeast part of the public square in the town of Danville, and said building to stand twenty feet back from Main and Vermilion streets, the southwest corner for said building is designated by a post."⁵ In addition to the \$600 already paid to Hubbard, on June 28 another \$100 was allowed him in part payment toward the construction work, and William Reed, was allowed \$100 for that amount paid by him to Hubbard for work done on the courthouse. Notice was given that proposals would be received on July 7 for providing the rock for the foundation of the courthouse. Thomas Durham was to be paid any sum not exceeding the

1. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 117, 132, 146, 158.

2. Ibid., p. 196.

3. Ibid., p. 257.

4. Beckwith, History of Vermilion County, p. 329.

5. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 259, 260, 262.

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amount agreed to be paid him on the commencement of the courthouse.¹

John H. Murphy was appointed agent for the county to carry into effect the contracts for the construction of the courthouse. He was also vested with full power and authority to enter into contracts with persons for any or all of the house as far as necessary to enclose the same, that had not been previously contracted for at the lowest price. This was on July 23, and on August 16, Murphy was authorized to contract with any person or persons for the quarrying and delivery of suitable stone with which to raise the foundation of the courthouse nine inches higher than was provided for. Andrew Pettijohn had contracted to furnish the stone for the foundation at \$1.62 $\frac{1}{2}$ a perch, and Jeremiah Delay was his security.²

Thomas Durham, on September 10, was allowed \$293.61 1/3 for the masonry of the foundation, including all materials and labor. Hubbard again comes into the minutes at the same term of court by being the recipient of money in part payment for the construction work done by Thomas Durham and Jacob Stahl. Work for which Hubbard had not contracted seems to have been handled through John H. Murphy, the court's agent in charge; Murphy was authorized to let the contract for the completion of the cupola, and to procure a ball and arrow for the same. On December 5, Thomas Durham was allowed \$891.14 $\frac{1}{2}$ for the brick work. The record reads: "and it is further distinctly to be understood that the aforesaid sum is to be in full for completing the courthouse agreeable to the original contract, which said Durham agrees to." Again the court ordered its future meetings to be held at the house of Amos Williams.³

By February 11, 1833, the construction had made sufficient progress for the court to order purchased "one barrel of linseed oil and a suitable quantity of paints" with which to paint the building. Again Hubbard was allowed \$400 in part payment for his work, the order for payment to be issued two months after the date of the court's meeting on June 5, 1833.⁴ The spire was painted, the arrow on the ball atop the spire was gilded, the fireplaces and hearths were finished, and the floor of the first story was laid in 1833. Each item was paid for when completed, and Hubbard received \$100 more on the contract. Before the close of the year the contract for finishing the joiner work on the first story and laying the floor of the second story was let. In June, 1834, the court examined the brick work and found it of a character acceptable; and in July they examined and accepted the joiner's work.⁵

1. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 258, 259.

2. Ibid., p. 263-65.

3. Ibid., p. 268, 278, 279, 284, 298-300.

4. Ibid., p. 303; v. B, p. 11.

5. Ibid., v. B, p. 31, 32, 34, 37, 38, 41, 43, 65, 74.

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It was not until December 16, 1836, that the court examined the work done on the inside by Moses Gerard and found it completed as per contract, and allowed him \$299.33 1/3, which was the remaining half of the full amount for which the contract had been let. Gerard on May 4, 1836 had purchased the contract for completing the construction work. In a full and final settlement for his part in the construction, Hubbard had been paid December 3, 1834, \$180.17, which was the remainder due him. Though the commissioners' court continued to meet at the house of Amos Williams, a session of the circuit court was held in the new courthouse in April, 1835. Sheriff William Reed summoned the jurors, cleaned and prepared the courthouse, and furnished candles in preparation for the session. On June 6, 1836, the county court accepted \$2.00, paid as rent for the use of the courthouse.¹ The bell for the building was ordered May 20, 1836, and paid for June 6 of the same year, but apparently was not hung in the tower until the spring of 1837. Stoves were installed in the building, supplanting the fireplaces, in June, 1837. From the records of the court, it would appear that the courthouse was from this time on considered a completed structure.² The total cost of this pay-as-you-go enterprise was in excess of \$6,500.00, which sum is a compilation of the amounts paid for material and construction work at various times from 1828 to 1837.

Local Economy in a Period of Speculation

The procedure followed was indicative of a character peculiar to the Vermilion County founding fathers. The county was established during the presidency of John Quincy Adams. The courthouse was in process of being built through the whole of the presidency of Andrew Jackson, which was a time of critical economic depression, and of widespread political disturbance. It was a period of spoils and land speculation. The war on the United States Bank was being waged. The bank had contracted its loans for the purpose of producing distress and breaking the back of the political opposition; financial stringency was deliberately inflicted on the country. "Nothing but the evidence of suffering aboard will produce the desired effect in Congress," said those who advocated the renewal of the bank's charter. The profits of the bank came from nine western states where little or none of the bank's stock was held. The people of the West paid tribute to eastern and foreign capitalists on the money they had borrowed to buy land, make improvements, and engage in speculation. There followed the period of "wild cat" finance, brought on by the distribution of national funds among state banks favorable to President Jackson, whom the proponents of the United States Bank vigorously opposed.³ Nevertheless, "the bank had hoped to establish a uniform currency by making notes issued at one branch redeemable at all others; but western banks had issued such floods of

1. Supervisors' Record, v. B, p. 89,110,161,165,188.

2. Ibid., p. 150,162,204,208,217,219.

3. Charles A. and Mary R. Beard, The Rise of American Civilization (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1930), I, 566-71.

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notes to be applied to local improvements or land speculation that the United States Bank was threatened by the drain of its specie in the East.¹ Although it has been said that "the history of the first ten years of Illinois finance, public and private, is the story of the struggle of men with conditions which they did not understand and which they had not the courage to meet, even according to the intellectual light that they possessed";² this cannot justly be said of the founding fathers of Vermilion County, who refused to encumber taxpayers with the burden of debt for a courthouse; hence, they did without what they could not as taxpayers afford. The control of public finance was held firmly by those whose responsibility it was to pay. The economic and political situation of the times in the nation, as well as that in the state, were reflected in the financial policies the county commissioners' court was forced to adopt.

Later Courthouse and Jail Construction

A detailed study of the county records shows that in all later construction of buildings required to house administrative offices, courts and other county service units, civil officials generally exercised the same frugality and thrift as that practiced by the county's founding fathers. In fact so marked was this trait that the first courthouse was thought to have been burned by some who wanted to see a new and better one in its place. The county board of supervisors refused and then delayed replacing it long after it became a blemish to the seat of justice, and at a time when the county was able to provide a structure adequate to the needs of a government that had long outgrown its pioneer form. The early practices of careful spending and tight control of local finances seem to have long prevailed. A bare outline of the administrative history of such construction follows.³

The inadequate first courthouse was supplemented, May 31, 1843, by the purchase of a lot, and building that was formerly occupied by the banking house of the Danville Branch of the State Bank of Illinois. It was typical of the county officials that before this purchase they ordered on April 3, 1843, the court clerk to give public notice in six of the most public places in the county that sealed plans and proposals would be received for the construction of a fireproof clerk's office, and also a poorhouse, and a bridge across the Big Vermilion River. Through the years since the courthouse was first occupied, which was before it was completed, portions of it had been rented for unofficial business agencies. The fireproof structure suggested was finally to be realized but not until some time later. The old banking house served as an office for the recorder and the county clerk; unused portions of

1. Pease, The Frontier State, p. 52-69.

2. Ibid.

3. See Housing, Care, and Accessibility of Records, p. 139, for a more detailed account.

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the structure, together with privilege to use the garden and outhouses, were sold March 2, 1847.¹

Finally the main building was ordered sold, reserving the vault and the doors to the vault. The county owned this house for ten years before it was finally disposed of and the way cleared for action on the aforementioned fireproof office.² In the meantime the county had passed from the administrative control of the court of county commissioners to the county board of supervisors, one supervisor representing each of the nine townships into which the county was divided in 1850-51. For a time the records show an alacrity on the part of the supervisors; there was much to be done and pressure from the newly organized townships as agencies of democratic control was noticeable in the demands made on the county board to remodel the courthouse, construct a new and more secure jail, redraft the program for the care of the poor, build new bridges over the numerous streams, and relocate numerous roadways that no longer adequately served the more densely settled county, which had passed beyond its awkward and adolescent period. A resolution, stating that "the interest of citizens imperiously demand the building of a fireproof office for the safekeeping of the records of the county, and their convenience calls for the building of a bridge across the Big Vermilion River near Danville," was presented to the board in February, 1855. The building was completed by November of the same year, and was paid for forthwith. It was twelve years after the first proposal to build the fireproof office building before it was actually accomplished, and five years after the county came under the administration of the board of supervisors. It is noticeable that after the first spurt of new life and response to the pressure of the township electorate, the supervisors collectively reverted to the traditional sparing deliberation, frugality, and financial husbandry with which the county previously had been administered.³

It was in June, 1851, when the new board began to urge the necessity for a new and secure jail, but it was not until March, 1855, that it was completed and the sheriff instructed to rent the two east rooms on the second floor at a rate he might think reasonable, and then pay same to the county treasurer as county revenue. The new jail was in process of construction from 1853 to 1855. It was another pay-as-you-go enterprise.⁴ This jail was in fact the county's third one, for the old and first jail built in 1828 of squared logs twelve inches in thickness, had been replaced in 1838 by a two-story structure, which served with careful guarding until 1855. Thomas McKibben was the contractor and builder of the second jail, and received his full compensation for the work in January, 1839.⁵

During the period of the Civil War the interests of the populace were

1. Supervisors' Record, v. B, p. 513, 514, 546; v. C, p. 93, 188, 205, 211.
2. Ibid., v. D, p. 27, 112, 116, 117, 123, 128, 183.
3. Ibid., p. 235, 237, 242, 246, 249-51, 256, 257, 263, 310, 313.
4. Ibid., p. 109, 114, 119, 120, 123, 128, 133, 134, 137, 148, 149, 155, 169, 176, 205, 243.
5. Ibid., v. A, p. 44, 45; v. B, p. 232, 233, 283.

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absorbed by the grave political concerns of a divided nation and of internecine strife. The county carried its full share of the economic burden in support of the army of the North, and for the care of the families of the soldiers of the Union forces. Public buildings, that were already inadequate, became more so during this time; they grew old and obsolete. By 1868 the courthouse and jail were so unfit for public use that a committee appointed by the county board of supervisors reported that it was "unnecessary to say anything for the courthouse as the building speaks for itself; it is very dilapidated and in an unhealthy condition." The committee recommended "the evacuation of the courthouse and the building of a new one as speedily as circumstances will permit." The jail was declared unsafe, and recommendations for its repair were made. Later in the same year the board appointed a committee "to investigate the subject of a new courthouse for the county." The report of this committee stated, in part, that the structure was antiquated and no longer adapted to the needs of the people. The population of the county had increased and the county had become one of the wealthiest of the state, the committee declared.¹ The old building did not reflect "the intelligence and enterprise of the people." The building should not be allowed to stand more than two years at most, the committee advised. The county was out of debt and had money in the treasury. The tax rate was only twenty-five cents on each \$100 of property assessed; and it was assessed at only one third of its real value, which meant the tax rate was about eight cents on every \$100. The committee's recommendation included enactment of a law by the General Assembly that would authorize issuing county bonds under direction of the board for the purpose of building a new courthouse. The supervisors were asked not to commit themselves to a certain time when the new structure would be built, but to leave to their successors in office the decision.²

It was not until September, 1872, that the board ordered the proposition of building a new courthouse and a new jail submitted to the electorate for decision at the November election. No record of the outcome of this election was reported in the minutes of the board's proceedings; but before the year closed the courthouse was partially destroyed by fire, and was rendered wholly unfit for use. The comment of the day was to the effect that the only way to get a new and needed courthouse was to burn the old one. It had been insured by the Aetna Insurance Company, and the board at once undertook to collect on the loss. In March, 1873, a special committee reported that an effort had been made to obtain the full amount of the policy, but that a compromise had been reached and \$3,750 was accepted in settlement of the claim. The sale of the brick and other material salvaged from the burned structure brought funds which were deposited in a bank to draw interest at ten percent until they were needed for building purposes. At once it was necessary for the board to make provisions for housing elsewhere the various county offices that were formerly located in the courthouse.³

1. The census of 1830 gave the population of the county as 5,836; in 1860 it was 19,800, and in 1870, 30,388.
2. Supervisors' Record, v. E, p. 575, 580, 582.
3. Ibid., v. F, p. 36, 172, 176, 182, 252, 253.

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The need for an escape-proof and sanitary jail became so urgent that nothing further was done toward building a new courthouse at this time, though some consideration was given to constructing a jail and courthouse in a combination architectural design. A number of jails in Indiana and Illinois county seats were visited by a committee appointed to report on plans for this fourth penal establishment. A lot was purchased for \$1,500.00 at the corner of Vermilion and South streets, near the Vermilion River, where the new county prison was finally located. The construction was undertaken during the year 1873 and completed in the early part of 1874.¹ By 1875 the demand for a new courthouse was so imperative that the first definite steps were at last taken toward the materialization of the project. It was completed by the close of 1877, the cornerstone having been laid in June, 1876. This structure was remodeled thirty-five years later at a cost of more than \$250,000.00. The original structure together with furnishings was built at a total cost of \$104,550.50.²

Changes in Government

Significant alterations in forms of local government in Illinois were made throughout the period covered by the record of changes in the housing of county offices. Notwithstanding the importance of these changes in methods of public administration, they were not reflected by any very great departure from the precedents set by the earliest Vermilion County officials. The pioneers did introduce into the county considerable of the political forms with which they were familiar in the states of their former residences. Early Illinois state government did not provide for township government within county units, so it followed the precedent of the territorial processes and the traditions of the Virginia form of county organization. The quasi-township-county adaptation in Vermilion County preceded its full and legal adoption by forty-five years.

In April, 1847, Vermilion County elected a delegate to the state constitutional convention which later convened at the state capital. The constitution drafted was adopted by the convention August 31, 1847, and was ratified by the electorate of the state March 6, 1848; it went into effect on the first of April of that same year. There had been a growing demand during the decade of the 40's for changes in the Constitution of 1818; the drift toward popular government had become marked. With the admission of Missouri as a slave state into the Union, northern Illinois began to be occupied with settlers from the Eastern and Middle states, while Southern emigration was directed toward Missouri. A long and bitter struggle ensued in Illinois as in many another frontier state. The new basic law was partially the result of that struggle.

The Constitution of 1848 entrusted extensive powers to the people, both in the election of officers and in the decision of important matters

1. Supervisors' Record, v. F, n. 190-92,197,198,268.
2. Ibid., p. 395,465-70,473,485,521; v. G, p. 25,31,37,53; v. P, p. 71, 81,99,162,325,543,583; v. Q, p. 62.

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left to the inhabitants of localities. It also authorized the General Assembly to provide a general law under which any county might organize under the township form of government whenever a majority of the voters of such county at any general election should so determine.¹ It was to be expected that Vermilion County as soon as possible would proceed to organize under the township form of government that was in general use in the Eastern and Middle Atlantic states. At first, however, under the new constitution, the county was administered by a county court which supplanted the court of three county commissioners. This court consisted of a county judge, and two justices of the peace, elected for terms of four years each. The justices of the peace, elected from the county-at-large, were to sit as associate justices with the county judge as members of the court for the transaction of such business as was prescribed by the constitution, and also as the General Assembly might direct.²

The date set for the change from the court of county commissioners to the court of a county judge and two associate justices was the first Monday in December, 1849. The new county officers, having been duly elected at the November, 1849 election, awaited their commissions to be issued by Governor Augustus C. French. These did not arrive in time for the official date set to institute the new county court; therefore, the court did not begin to function until December 17, 1849, when Guy Merrill as county judge, and Josiah Alexander and Elam Henderson accepted their commissions and took their oaths of office.³

Government by Townships

The General Assembly enacted a law governing township organization at its winter session of 1849. This law became effective April 1, 1850.⁴ The proposal "to divide the county into towns by making as many towns as there are townships according to government surveys," was submitted to the electorate at the November, 1850 election. A majority of the valid votes cast were for the new township-county administrative system. At the December, 1850, meeting of the court, three commissioners were appointed to divide the county into towns or townships.⁵ The townships were to be named in accordance with the wishes of their inhabitants. If there was no unanimity as to the name, the commissioners were authorized to designate the name.⁶

The commissioners appointed to divide the county into townships made their report to the clerk of the county court before March 1, 1851; the election of supervisors in the newly formed townships followed. The first meeting of the board of supervisors who took over the management of

1. Constitution of 1848, Art. VII, sec. 6.
2. Ibid., Art. V, sec. 17-19; L.1849, p. 62-67.
3. Supervisors' Record, v. D, p. 1-3.
4. L.1849, p. 190.
5. Supervisors' Record, v. D, p. 56, 66, 73, 98.
6. L.1849, p. 190.

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the fiscal affairs for the county was held June 13, 1851. Nine townships were formed out of the county as a whole. The two extra-legal townships into which the county had been divided by the county commissioners' court in 1826 were dropped. Ripley Township, that lay north of the center of (survey) township eighteen north, ceased to exist. The name of Carroll, the other extra-legal township, was retained.¹ The township names were brought into the minutes of the board for the first time on September 10, 1851, when the tax rate for real and personal property was fixed for the year. The names, without the boundaries given, were Elwood, Georgetown, Carroll, Pilot, Richland, North Fork, Danville, and Union. The tax rate set was four cents on every \$100 worth of real and personal property, in each township except Middle Fork, for which five cents was the rate named. The commissioners had recommended the organization of a township to be named Trickels Grove; but at the first meeting of the board on June 13, it was recorded that this township had not been organized by its electorate. The board ordered that the township designated and bounded by the commissioners should be attached to the Town of Middle Fork. At this meeting the names of three of the townships were ordered changed because the appellations as first given, conflicted with names of other townships in the state. The general laws on township organization made it illegal to have two with the same name in the state. For Richland, was substituted the name of Newell; for North Fork, that of Ross; and Vance, for Union. The new names for these three townships were officially used in the tax levy for 1852, when the rate per township varied from two to ten cents per \$100 of real and personal property, with the highest rate levied in Middle Fork Township.²

These first townships into which the county was divided were from time to time reduced in area until their number became nineteen, the last three being organized after the turn of the century. The record of township formations and proposed divisions reveals that the Vermilion County people persisted in their tendency towards a maximum of self-government as provided in the township form of county administration. Despite the change that has taken place in the public mind over the efficiency and economy of the township system, this county more than doubled the number of township divisions in the period of a half century. There has been a decline in the relative administrative importance of the township in comparison with larger development of municipal powers and functions in incorporated cities, and also in comparison with the increased emphasis on the county as compared to the township; in Vermilion County, however, the township retains much of the importance with which it was invested by the earliest advocates of the township law. This is of special significance because this county passed through just those stages of economic, industrial, and social change which brought about the modified emphasis of the township as the unit of administration. The transformation from a purely agricultural state to an industrial commonwealth, with its agricultural

1. Supervisors' Record, v. D, p. 73,101.
2. Ibid., p. 106,120,154.

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interests greatly modified by mechanization and enlarged transportation facilities, caused the switch from the more decentralized to the more centralized method of political and administrative control.

There were many proposals and petitions for new townships presented to the board of supervisors from 1851 to 1920. Pressure of petitioning groups was frequently recorded in the board's records. After the adoption of the Constitution of 1870, the decentralization continued for a time in the further extension of the township system, although the new basic law limited municipalities, townships, and counties in the exercise of power to prevent abuses and extravagances in giving aid to enterprises of internal improvements. Nevertheless, between 1870 and 1927 four new townships were added to the fifteen that had been organized in Vermilion County prior to 1870.

The first township organized after the first legal division of the county was in February, 1856, when Prairie City was formed from the area of Middle Fork Township. In September, 1857, the name of this division was changed to Patten. Under the name Prairie City, this township appeared on the 1856 county tax list; as Patten it appeared (spelled Patton) on the lists for 1857 and 1858; thereafter it disappeared and was not mentioned again, nor did its name recur in the records as having been dissolved by order of the board. Further division of Middle Fork did not occur until 1864 when Butler Township was organized, and named for "Old" General Benjamin F. Butler, "cock-eyed hero of the Civil War." It is apparent that Patten Township occupied some of the territory which later became Butler Township, for the description of boundaries cites that both were in (survey) township 23 north. The next township formed was Fremont, September, 1856, the name of which was changed to Blount the following September.¹

In March, 1857, an effort was made to have the organization of Catlin Township authorized. It was not until March of the following year that the board directed the electors of the proposed new division to proceed to form a town government. Lyon Township was formed out of Ross by order of the board in September, 1861. The electorate was authorized to hold an election in April, 1862, for the election of town officers. The township was named Lyon by order of the board; but the designation was later changed and it appeared on the county tax list of September, 1862, as Grant, in honor of the general of the Union Army who was a resident of Illinois and a dominant military figure of the time.² The next to be formed was Sidell Township, which occupies the southwest corner of the county, having Edgar and Champaign counties as its western and southern boundaries. Sidell was ordered formed out of the western portion of Carroll Township in December, 1866; it began to function with a town government in 1867. The valley of the

1. Supervisors' Record, v. D, p. 272, 291, 293, 340, 398, 467; v. E, p. 276, 277; Jones, Vermilion County, Illinois, p. 422.
2. Supervisors' Record, v. D, p. 318, 371; v. E, p. 98, 99, 181.

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Little Vermilion River runs nearly through the center of the township. There were few settlers in this section before 1850, but nothing like general cultivation of this portion of the county took place until after 1855. The name was given to the township in honor of John Sidell, who owned much land there.¹

In December, 1867, a strenuous effort was made by 150 citizens of Vance, Catlin, and Pilot townships to have the board of supervisors authorize the formation of a new township out of lands included in these towns. Because of the many streams to be crossed and the distance to be traveled by citizens in order to participate in township affairs, the new township was urgently requested. In March, 1868, the board ordered the new township formed, and designated that it be named Oakwood. This township is historic ground, it being where the Old Salt Works were located, and where the first settlement of the county was made.² The next to be formed in order of time was Jamaica Township, which was organized in 1890. This new township was made from Catlin, Sidell, and Vance townships. Then followed the organization in 1902 of Love Township, which lies in the extreme southeast corner of the county. A large body of citizens of Elwood Township desired to be set apart in a town of their own, claiming they could not have satisfactory political privileges under the old division. The name given the township was in honor of Judge I. A. Love of Danville, who was the legal adviser to those who asked for the new division.³ Between 1910 and 1920, George Township was divided and McKendree Township formed out of the eastern section, the larger portion of the area being included in McKendree. The Township of Ross was divided in 1927, and South Ross organized, taking an excess of six thousand acres more than half of the original area.⁴ Disregarding the relative merits of the township and nontownship organization as to cost and efficiency of the two types of county administration, Vermilion County citizens have shown their preference for the former by gradually increasing the number of town governments by ten since 1851.

There exists in the arrangements of townships in the county a singular and somewhat ludicrous patchwork set-up. In the shuffle of areas, placement of boundaries and political play for advantage in forming new townships, a small area was lost and partially forgotten. The result was that a half section of Catlin Township exists as an enclave within Oakwood Township on the western border of Danville Township. It came about in the following manner and is worthy of note because of its relation to the Ordinance of 1785 for the Disposition of Western Lands, and Federal Reservation of the Vermilion Salines. The ordinance reserved section sixteen of every congressional or survey township for the maintenance of public schools. When Illinois was accorded statehood in 1818,

1. Supervisors' Record, v. E, p. 431, 432; Jones, Vermilion County, Illinois, p. 433, 434.
2. Supervisors' Record, v. E, p. 527, 528, 545, 546.
3. Jones, Vermilion County, Illinois, p. 395, 436.
4. Fifteenth Census of the United States, Population Bulletin, First Series, Illinois, Number and Distribution of Inhabitants (Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1930), p. 34. Hereinafter referred to as Population Bulletin.

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it had been decided by the constitutional convention that section sixteen of each congressional township should become the property of the state and the land sold and the proceeds used to establish schools for the inhabitants of the townships. The Congress of the United States offered the new state three propositions, which if accepted became obligatory upon the United States. The transfer to the state of title to the school lands to be sold as provided for by the ordinance, and also the transfer to the state of title to saline lands, previously held by the Federal government when the Northwest was under the territorial form of government, were two of the three propositions offered. It happened that the Salt Works in Vermilion County was section sixteen. An adjustment was made by Congress, and section twenty-six was designated as the school section. The saline lands were not to be sold and could not be leased for a longer period than ten years at any one time. After Vermilion County was formed, and Catlin Township organized in 1858, it was found that the Old Salt Works on the saline lands was within Catlin Township. In 1868 when Oakwood Township was organized its area was formed from lands separated from Vance, Pilot, and Catlin townships. Both the new township and Catlin wanted to include the Salt Works section sixteen. In the wrangle and negotiations, Oakwood secured the coveted Salt Works land, but in some manner the lost half-section sixteen was overlooked and when the battle was over the particular spot inside Oakwood was still on the records as part of Catlin. Rectifying the error has been discussed at times, but nothing has been done. The dozen or so families who reside in the enclave seem content to have nothing done about it, as each time there is an election they receive extra attention on the part of candidates for office in the form of transportation to Catlin village, free meals, and such other gifts as may be characteristic of the American political party system. So far as the records show in every other congressional township in the state, section sixteen is or was the school section.

County Boundaries Changed

The boundaries of the county today are not those formed when the county was established. The major adjustments in the lines dividing Vermilion from other Illinois counties were made in 1833 when Champaign County was organized from land adjoining Vermilion on the west, and Iroquois County was formed on the north though not out of land included within the legal description of Vermilion County. Champaign County was formed out of the unorganized territory west of and also a portion of Vermilion County, the western boundary of which was set back ten miles of its entire length. Also, in 1833, Iroquois County was created out of the unorganized territory to the north, which was attached to Vermilion for administrative purposes. In this case the northern boundary of Vermilion was extended six miles and the county continued administrative jurisdiction over the land now known as Ford County, which adjoins Vermilion to the west and north of Champaign County. This accession of land to the north now includes what are Grant and Butler townships.¹

1. L.1826, p. 50; Priv. L.1833, p. 19, 20, 28; Jones, Vermilion County Illinois, p. 78, 79.

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Just as there were many attempts to have new townships authorized by the board of supervisors, so there were many proposals to divide Vermilion County and have the General Assembly of Illinois authorize the creation of new counties. Among the suggested names for proposed new counties were Prairie, Summit, Harrison, Lincoln, Milton, and Ford. The latter name was given to the remaining portion of the territory attached to Vermilion County for administrative purposes. It was formed out of the bootleg or panhandle shaped area lying between Iroquois, Kankakee, Livingston, McLean, and Champaign counties.¹

The county belongs to the second class category as fixed by an act of the General Assembly regulating fees and compensation of county and township officers in the state. Counties containing a population over twenty-five thousand and not exceeding five hundred thousand are known as second class.² According to the United States census report Vermilion County had a population of 89,339 in 1930.³

Vermilion County Today

Population

The county's steady and normal growth in population from the beginning reflects the balance that seems to have been maintained in its political, economic, and social development. The census figures for the county by decades since the first one after its organization are as follows: 1830 - 5,836; 1840 - 9,303; 1850 - 11,492; 1860 - 19,800; 1870 - 30,388; 1880 - 41,588; 1890 - 49,905; 1900 - 65,635; 1910 - 77,996; 1920 - 86,162.⁴ The rapid rises in the population curve occurred in the decades of greatest expansion of the coal mining industry, together with the growth in agriculture that was made possible by the development of and application of machinery in farming. The population of the county per townships is as follows: Blount, 1,261; Butler, 2,245; Carroll, 1,214; Catlin, 2,147; Danville, 45,326; Elwood, 1,844; Georgetown, 8,775; Grant, 7,143; Jamaica, 608; Love, 568; McKendree, 951; Middle Fork, 1,906; Newell, 4,771; Oakwood, 2,895; Pilot, 1,133; Ross, 2,046; Sidell, 1,646; South Ross, 1,402; Vance, 1,458.⁵

The farm population of the county for 1930 was 16,395. This shows that the county is predominantly urban in population, though agriculture

1. L.1859, p. 29.
2. Smith-Hurd Revised Statutes of the State of Illinois 1935 (Chicago: Burdette Smith Company, 1935), chap. 53, sec. 30, p. 1659.
3. Population Bulletin, p. 34.
4. Atlas of Taxing Units, Volume 1 of a Survey of Local Finance in Illinois Prepared by Illinois Tax Commission in cooperation with the Work Projects Administration (Chicago: F. J. Riley Printing Co., 1939), p. 11.
5. Population Bulletin, p. 34.

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still constitutes the major industry. The native white population was 81,617, and the Negro population, 3,250. Of males there were 46,293, and of females, 43,046. The total foreign-born population in 1930 was 4,442, of which number 752 were of German birth, 742 of Lithuanian, 732 of English, 303 of Italian, 239 of Czechoslovakian, 239 of Polish, 224 of French, and 118 of Hungarian. The remainder of the foreign-born population came from other European countries. There were 15 Mexicans, 11 Chinese, 1 Japanese, and 3 native American Indians. The native white population of foreign or mixed parentage, by birth of parents, was 11,506, of which number 3,548 were of German parentage - the largest of the foreign parentage groups.¹

There were in 1930, 32,818 persons over ten years of age engaged in gainful occupations, of which number 26,349 were males, and 6,469 females. There were a total of 5,757 engaged in agriculture, of which number 121 were females. There were 2,915 male farm owners and tenants, and 88 female owners and tenants. There were 64 farm managers and foremen, and 2,677 farm laborers. There were 2,401 classified as wage workers, and 3,329 engaged in the coal mining industry. The largest group employed was 3,774 engaged in wholesale and retail trade, excepting the automobile trade. There were 1,648 employed in the building industry, and 1,486 in the iron and steel industry, excepting blast furnaces and steel rolling mills, in which there were 189 workers; in the metal industries, excepting iron and steel, there were 685. In the steam and street railways there were employed 2,220; in other transportation and communication industries there were 900 employed. In automobile agencies and filling stations, 464 persons were engaged; in garages and greasing stations, 401; in banking and brokerage, 289; in insurance and real estate, 328; and in the construction and maintenance of streets, 232. Miscellaneous manufacturing industries employed 641 persons; the clay, glass, and stone industries engaged 518 workers; the postal service 222, and the laundry, cleaning, and pressing shops, 283. There were 2,203 persons engaged in professional and semiprofessional services, of which number 1,290 were females. Hotels, restaurants, and boarding houses employed 962 persons, and 1,814 persons were employed in domestic and personal services, of which number 1,405 were females. Those engaged in industries not specified were 945. In recreational and amusement services there were 288 persons employed, and in public services not elsewhere classified, 408.²

The largest farm population resides in Danville Township, though there are twelve townships larger in area than Danville. The rural population of Danville Township is 1,521; next in order of large rural groups are, Oakwood, with 1,304; Grant with 1,160; Butler with 1,125; Newell with 1,116; Blount with 1,033; and Pilot with 1,011. The remainder of townships have farm populations under 1,000 persons.³

1. Population, Fifteenth Census of the United States: 1930 (Washington: 1932), v. III, part 1, p. 636, 638, 640, 642, 671. Hereinafter referred to as Population, Fifteenth Census.
2. Ibid., p. 651.
3. Ibid., p. 671.

Cities, Towns, and Villages

The history of the city of Danville is so closely interwoven with that of the county of which it is the capital city, that the story of one is the record of the other. Danville was not a private enterprise, as new towns in their inception often were; it was an enterprise of the whole county in its corporate capacity, having been located and promoted by the county officials from 1827 to long past the middle of that century. It was in March, 1844, that Elias F. Palmer, clerk of the corporation of Danville, delivered to the court of county commissioners all the books and papers appertaining to the corporation. For years after Danville had become a thriving city, the county was still receiving money for the sale of lots into which the original land, that had been given by Beckwith and Smith for a county seat site, was subdivided. The county records are replete with data on the sale of lots, which at the outset brought an average of \$22 each. The site of the county seat was not a particularly attractive one at the time it was selected. It was described by early settlers as "a miserable town, at most all hazel brush and deserted log cabins." Rattlesnakes were so plentiful that they constituted a hazard to the well-being of man and beast. On days when lots were auctioned and pioneers came to the county seat from great distances by horsoback and oxcart to trade furs and peltries at "white goods" stores, with Indian hunters and trappers camping near by, the occasion frequently was turned into a snake killing. Horses tied to village hitching posts were not infrequently bitten by the snakes that the Indians refused to kill because they revered them as their ancestors. As now constituted, the city is located in Danville and Newell townships. The total population of Danville in 1930 was 36,765; the city population within Danville Township was 34,006, and within Newell, 2,759, leaving 11,320 rural and urban inhabitants of the township outside the city of Danville.¹

There are two other incorporated cities in the county: Hoopeston and Georgetown. The latter was incorporated in 1854. A town election was held and there were cast 31 favorable votes for incorporation, and 14 against the proposal. William Taylor was chosen president of the municipality. The population of the city, in 1930, was 3,407. Hoopeston in Grant Township, the other incorporated city, has a population of 5,613. Five of the townships have no cities, towns, or incorporated villages: these are Jamaica, Love, Blount, Pilot, and McKendree. Except for the portion of Denville City that is in Newell Township there is no other incorporated municipality in Newell. There were in 1930, sixteen incorporated villages in the county. They are Rankin in Butler Township, with 840 inhabitants; Indianola in Carroll, with a population of 408; Catlin in Catlin, with 813; Belgium in Danville and Georgetown townships, with 484; Tilton in Danville, with 1,394; Westville in Danville and Georgetown, with 3,901; Ridge Farm in Elwood, with 888; Fithian in Oakwood, with 461; Muncie in Oakwood, with 222; Oakwood in

1. Population Bulletin, p. 34; Jones, Vermilion County, Illinois, p. 93, 393,394; Supervisors' Record, v. C, p. 13.

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Oakwood, with 537; Rossville in Ross, with 1,453; Allerton in Sidell and Champaign County, with 338; Alvin in South Ross, with 322; Henning in South Ross, with 287; Fairmont in Vance, with 741; and Potomac in Middle Fork, with 643.¹

At the close of the Civil War there were fifteen towns and settlements of size in the county. Many of these are now only memories - ghost-towns of a greatly changed countryside. Some of these were former sites of mills and railroad stations; others were vain hopes of speculators in real estate, and still others just went the way of all flesh. Among ghost towns, whose names remain in the literature of the county and in the records of official transactions, are Pellserville, Greenville, Leesburg, Shepard, Myersville, Prospect City, Blue Grass, Higginsville, Salem, Brothers, Glenburn, Weaver, Gilbert, Franklin, Archie, Monroe, Conkeytown, Hinrod, Chillicothe, and Denmark. The waters of Lake Vermilion now ripple over the spot where Seymore Treat's cabin and sawmill stood in the center of old Denmark. The evolution in methods of transportation - the automobile, the railroad, and the airplane, together with hard roads and roadmaking machinery, has had much to do with the disappearance of these towns and villages. Accessibility to markets determine in a large way the permanence of urban settlements in a wealthy agricultural community. The shift of populations is a phenomenon that occurs constantly through the centuries, but rarely ever so suddenly that it is noted as a significant current event. Movements of people are related to fundamental changes in the economic and social structure of society more than they are with temperament and with cultural forces.

Economic Status

Directly concerned with the basic industry of the county are only 18.5 percent of the total population. Of the county's 589,440 acres, 87.3 percent was in farms in 1935. There were 3,648 farms, averaging 142 acres each. There was a decline in the size of farms from 1925 when the average size per farm was 159 acres; however, in 1920 the average number of acres per farm was 145.² There was an increase of 463 farms since 1925; but between 1920 and 1925 there had been a decrease of 402. By 1930 the number again increased by 445, to which number 18 more farms were added by the close of the next five-year period. These changes in number of farms were such that by 1935 there were only 61 more farms in the county than in 1920. The fluctuations in the number and size of farms reflect the unstable economic conditions in agriculture and in industry during the five-year periods covered by the changes. The average size of farms in the county is greater than the average of 137 acres for the state as a whole. There is little evidence of farm consolidation in the county. In 1930 the percentage of the total land area in farm use was 89.8 as compared to 87.6 in 1935, and to 86 in 1925.³

1. Population Bulletin, p. 34.

2. Farm, Home and Community, Illinois (Urbana: University of Illinois, 1936), p. 4. Hereinafter cited as Farm, Home and Community.

3. Ibid., p. 4.

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Of the 3,648 farms operated in 1935, 1,362 were operated by full owners, 550 by part owners, 28 by managers, and 1,708 by tenants or 49.9 percent of the total number of operators. The total value of farm land was \$44,766,447. The average value of farm land per farm was \$12,272, and for the state as a whole \$9,536. The average value per acre in the county was \$86.72, and for the state, \$69.67. A comparison of values of farm land as given for 1930 and 1935 for the county and state show a significant decline. In 1930 the total value per farm in the county was \$18,470, for the state, \$15,553; in 1935, for the county it was \$12,272, and for the state, \$9,536. Per acre for the county in 1930, the total value was \$126.66, for the state, \$108.68. In 1935 the value for the county per acre was \$86.72, and for the state, \$69.67. The comparative value of Vermilion County farms, not including farm buildings and dwellings, with averages for the state in 1930, are as follows: county per farm, land only, \$14,945; for the state, \$11,912; per acre for the county, \$102.49; and for the state, \$83.24.¹

Of the 1,362 owner-operated farms in 1930, 47.5 percent were mortgaged, which percent was 6.2 greater than for the state as a whole. The average debt per farm mortgage in the county was \$5,915, for the state as a whole, \$6,182. The average mortgage debt per acre for the county was \$62.00, for the state, \$51.00. The average tax on land and buildings in the county in 1929 was \$1.92, in the state, \$1.15. In Illinois the highest percentage of mortgaged owner-operated farms is found in Ford County where 79.7 percent are thus encumbered; in Livingston County, one of the richest in agricultural resources in the whole nation, the percentage is 76.4 percent.²

Despite the political record and integrity of the county in its official life, the quality of its pioneers and the vast resources in soil and minerals, the economic status of its present-day population is no better than that generally found throughout the nation. The report of the President's Committee on Farm Tenancy, February, 1937, stated: "Half a century ago one out of every four farmers was a tenant. Today two out of every five are tenants. . . . Thousands of farmers commonly considered owners are as insecure as tenants, because in some areas the farmers' equity in their property is as little as one-fifth. Fully half the total farm population of the United States has no adequate farm security." The report further stated that this insecurity of a series of groups of farmers "is a serious threat to the integrity of rural life."³

1. Farm, Home and Community, p. 76.

2. Ibid., p. 78.

3. Farm Tenancy, Message from the President of the United States transmitting the report of the special committee on farm tenancy, 75th Congress, 1st Session, House Document No. 149 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1937), p. 1,3.

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Agriculture, the major factor in the production of wealth in the county, is therefore the real economic foundation for the county's social and cultural life. Corn is the main farm crop. Although crop surveys give 195,146 acres as the average for corn production, in 1935 the acreage was 154,000. The all-time high acreage for corn was 229,000 in 1900; the lowest acreage since 1900 was 148,000 in 1934. Wheat production ranges from 33,625 in 1930 to 25,880 acres in 1935. The area sowed to oats fluctuated from 119,000 acres in 1930 to 72,000 in 1935. The growing of soy beans has become a factor in farm economy since 1926 when 3,000 acres were set aside for their production; in 1934, 24,000 acres were allotted to this crop. Hemp is now grown under contract. The canning of corn at Hoopeston and Rossville is an industry of considerable proportions. The canning plants are surrounded by the best growing land for sweetcorn in the United States. Thirty-five million cans of Vermilion County sweetcorn are shipped annually. Ten million cans of asparagus and red kidney beans are processed in these centers for shipment elsewhere.¹

Animal husbandry and the use of pasture lands is a phase of farming that balances with the production of crops. Corn and oats, the major crops, are mostly fed to livestock rather than sold in the grain market. In the related industry of dairying, milk production increased from 3,500 gallons in 1900 to 6,000,000 in 1935. Poultry raising, egg production, and beekeeping as a side line, add greatly to the annual income of the farmers. Scarcely 2,300 acres of woodland remained in the county in 1935. Originally the wooded area amounted to 109,000 acres. Of woodland pastureage, there were 23,257 acres in use in 1924, and in 1935 approximately 38,000 acres. That same year there were 15,600 head of dairy cattle in the county; 15,300 head of beef cattle; 16,800 head of sheep; 47,000 swine; and 12,100 head of horses and mules. The fruit and vegetable production amounted to \$400,000.²

The county's second most important industry from the standpoint of production of wealth, is coal mining. Life as Americans live it, is two-thirds dependent on coal, because coal in the development of superpower does two-thirds of the nation's work, and thus supplies the American people with a vast amount of material goods on which American standards of living are based. This is one way of saying that coal production is still a basic industry, though science, perhaps, is on the eve of the discovery of other natural substances that ultimately may supplant coal, petroleum products, and hydroelectric power as fuel and energy. Such a discovery will revolutionize modern civilization and overthrow the present basis of economic and social organization, if not the political structure of modern nations. Nevertheless, coal remains a major factor

1. Vermilion County Soils, p. 4-6.
2. Ibid., p. 5,6.

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in superpower on which engineers have based their hopes for vast social improvements and substantial betterments in the life of the masses. Behind most superpower enterprises and the vista of electrified civilization, coal is the condition precedent.

It was in Illinois that the first recorded discovery of coal was made on the North American continent. Jolliet and Father Marquette in their voyage of exploration in 1673 by way of the Illinois River valley and the Chicago River made their original discovery of "carbon de terre." The earliest mining in Vermilion County was in the hillsides by "drifting in" and following the vein, or by stripping away the earth above the coal vein. In February, 1855, the General Assembly of Illinois issued a charter to Ward H. Lamon and others associated with him, to permit the company to engage in the industry of mining; nothing was done under the charter. Dudley Lacock did some mining in the coal lands he owned west of Danville. Other operations in the production of coal were undertaken in 1853. About 1860, Chandler and Dolan were first to do extensive mining; they were followed by Peter R. Lonard. As early as 1860, Michael Kelly began an extensive strip mining business. The real beginning of the great coal mining business in the county was in 1866 when the Grape Creek coal mines were opened.¹

One of the leaders in opening the coal industry was William Kirkland, who was hindered much by a scarcity of miners. He operated extensively by stripping with horses and scrapers. Miners from Belgium were induced to emigrate to Illinois for the purpose of supplying skilled mine labor. Underground mining started about 1870 when shafts were sunk. Two of these early shafts were burned: one by accident and the other by striking miners.² The first mention of coal in the supervisors' records was in March, 1861, when J. C. Short was directed to superintend the purchase of coal bought to heat the county offices. In December, 1873, Alexander Bowman, county surveyor, laid before the board of county supervisors his first annual report as "inspector of coal mines and collieries." Bowman reported in considerable detail. He stated among other things, that the Western Coal and Mining Company used a combination of drift and shaft mining, "which," he said, "combines safety and ventilation in a remarkable degree." This company had a lease on 200 acres of coal land; their shipments averaged 56,000 tons a year with a payroll of \$10,000 per month. The capital invested was \$60,000. The Enterprise Coal Company leased 700 acres of coal land and employed 55 men, with an aggregate annual production of 40,000 tons, and had \$160,000 in capital. The Ellsworth Coal Company employed 25 men and produced an aggregate of 50,000 tons of coal annually from a leasehold of 280 acres of coal land. The Chicago Carbon Coal Company held a lease on 1,200 acres. There were employed in the mining industry at the time, 566 men; and the annual production was approximately 385,750 tons of coal. The capital invested in the

1. Jones, Vermilion County, Illinois, p. 375,376.
2. Ibid., p. 376.

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industry was \$775,900. There were then fifteen shafts for coal mining ranging from 26 to 155 feet deep, and five of the shafts used steam hoisting machinery. There were then fifteen drift mines and twenty-four strip banks. There were a total of between fifty and sixty mines in the county.¹

In contrast with the inspector's report, the records of the first coal production in the state show that in 1833, 6,000 tons were mined; in 1934, one hundred years later, 40,000,000 tons were mined.² In 1937, there were six shipping mines in operation in Vermilion County, and the total number of employes engaged in the industry were 2,051. The tonnage produced was 1,883,472. The average number of days worked during the year was 141. In 1936 the average number of days worked was 176, and the output was 1,976,645 tons. In addition to this production for shipping purposes, there were 96 local mines operated with 792 persons employed. The tonnage for the year was 390,931, and the average number of days worked during the year was 129. The output was used mostly in the local trade. The total tonnage from shipping and local mines was 2,483,419; the total number of workers engaged in the industry was 2,833. In 1928 the total output was 3,512,290 tons. The total number of mines operating in the county in 1937 was 102. In relative rank of counties in the state producing 500,000 tons or more, Vermilion was tenth. In 1933, employes worked an average of 111 days. The annual income per employe averaged \$571.65. To provide a decent living for the miners and their families it was necessary for them to supplement their income by some other part time employment.³ The county's store of coal will not be exhausted for many years, as most of the farms of the middle and southern parts of the county have undisturbed wealth stored below their grain producing fields.

Limestone is quarried extensively near Fairmont in Vance Township; it is used as a flux in the manufacture of steel, and for a soil replenishing element in agriculture, as well as for road grading material, and ballast for railroad beds. Many millions of building, face, paving, and silica brick are manufactured in the county near Danville, the largest plant has an output capacity of 70,000 bricks daily.⁴

Travel and Transportation

The modern highways which now interlace Vermilion County and make speedy travel possible, are the evolution of the Indian trail, which in turn often was the evolution of the track made by some wild animal. Pre-

1. Supervisors' Record, v. F, p. 24,245.
2. Fifty-Fourth Coal Report of Illinois, 1935 (Springfield: Department of Mines and Minerals, 1935), p. 117.
3. Fifty-Sixth Coal Report of Illinois, 1937, p. 30,54,55,68,69,80,82-85, 90,91,196,197.
4. Vermilion County Soils, p. 4-6.

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vious to the time when the location of roads was determined by legal proceedings, convenience in travel established their route. The Danville and Fort Clark Road was surveyed and laid out as a legal road about 1834 under an act of the General Assembly of the state, but it did not owe its origin to this legal action, for it was traveled many years previous to this date. In 1828, the court of county commissioners entered an order appointing a supervisor of the Fort Clark Road from the Salt Fork to the western line of Vermilion County. The highway was well known as the one over which the great tide of immigration passed from the states east of the Ohio to the section known as the "Military Tract," the name given to the lands lying in the western part of Illinois, between the Illinois and Mississippi rivers. This tract comprised the lands given to the soldiers of both the Wars of the Revolution and that of 1812. Another early trace was the Ottawa Road; it was built through Vermilion County, passing to the north of Danville on the way to Chicago. It was a state road and was early marked by milestones. This road probably developed from trails converging at Danville from Vincennes, which started at Fort St. Louis, and from Fort Detroit. The north and south road was known as the "Hubbard Trace," and was a very important highway for years; its extension in Chicago is known today as State Street.¹

The American Fur Company had stations in the country between the Illinois and Wabash rivers as early as 1785. They had trading stations on the Iroquois, the Little Wabash, and the Embarrass rivers. In 1824, Gurdon Hubbard was put in charge of the company's trade in this section; he soon abandoned the trading posts on the Illinois River, and introduced pack horses to cover the route between Chicago and the southern extremity of the territory. This way or trail from Chicago went directly to the Salt Works and thence south.

As has been cited previously in this sketch, one of the earliest services performed by the county's officials was that of establishing roads. It often happened that the main business of the county's administrative body was that of directing the building of new roads, rerouting old ones, and maintaining all in serviceable condition. Today there are 3,600 farmsteads located on rural roads in the county; served directly by some form of all-weather roads there are 2,400 homesteads. Facilities for marketing agricultural products are well established. The following is the highway statistical data for the county: regular Federal-aid roads, all paved, 110.1 miles; State Bond Issue, all paved, 30.6 miles; State-aid (county), 253.5 miles, of which 191.7 miles are paved, 48.6 miles are graveled, and 13.2 miles are earth; township roads, 1,282.2 miles, of which 12.7 miles are paved, 1,103 miles are graveled, and 166.5 miles are earth. The total mileage of roads in the county is 1,676.4 miles.²

1. Jones, Vermilion County, Illinois, p. 63-65.
2. Rural Inventory, Highway Research (Springfield: Department of Public Works and Buildings, Division of Highways, 1939).

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The earliest means of travel through the county was by way of the stagecoach. These lines were established to accommodate passengers from one point to another, who otherwise would have to travel by horseback, and to carry the United States mail. The mails were carried three times a week, and previous to the established stagecoach lines, were taken on horseback. Very early in the county's history, efforts were made to make the Big Vermilion navigable; but nothing of consequence was accomplished even for light craft. A company of citizens of Vermilion County and of neighboring counties petitioned Congress in 1831 to grant a strip of land from Vincennes to Chicago on which to construct a railroad. The outcome of this was the charter secured in 1835 for the Chicago and Vincennes Railway. Among the charter members of this enterprise appeared the names of Gurdon S. Hubbard, then of Chicago, and John H. Murphy and Isaac R. Moore of Danville. This first attempt to build a rival to the stagecoach, through the county, was a failure. The first competition to the stagecoach line was the Wabash Railroad, completed in 1856. In 1835, the same year that the charter was secured for the Chicago and Vincennes Railway, a railroad was projected from Quincy on the Mississippi River, across the state of Illinois to the Indiana state line in the direction of La Fayette. This road was to be built through Springfield, Decatur, and Danville, and was to be known as the Northern Cross Railroad. It is the road now known as the Wabash.¹ The plan to build a railroad across the state was a part of the great internal improvement scheme which bankrupted the state of Illinois, and before it could be carried out, of necessity, it had to be abandoned. The craze for internal improvements seems almost incredible, and has gone down in history with few parallels of like nature. It has been estimated that the expense involved in all the proposed improvements was \$10,000,000, but many writers maintain that this estimate is far too low, which was a considerable sum for the times.

Vermilion County's representative in the General Assembly at the time predicted that financial ruin would overtake the state if the legislature persisted in its wild scheme of internal improvements. When he saw that he could not prevent the plan from being carried into effect, and that public money was going to be wasted anyway, he managed to have the work begin at once on that part of the Northern Cross Railroad which ran through Vermilion County. The heaviest and most expensive part of the road east of Sangamon County was practically completed before the crash came. The road remained in this shape until 1853, when the plan to complete it from Decatur east across the state was formed. The road was later called the Great Western, running from Decatur to Danville, which consolidated with the Wabash in 1865. The first railroad locomotive, the Pioneer, entered Danville in 1856. The second railroad crossing in Vermilion County was the Danville, Urbana, Bloomington, and Pekin, completed in 1870. Not until 1871 was there a railroad

1. Jones, Vermilion County, Illinois, p. 361-66.

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connection through the county to Chicago. The Chicago and Eastern Illinois was built then. Today, the following steam railroad companies operate in the county: the Chicago and Eastern Illinois; the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific; the Illinois Central; the Peoria and Eastern; the New York Central; the New York, Chicago and St. Louis; the Wabash, and the Kansas and Sidell. Danville is the eastern terminal of the Illinois Traction system, an electric railroad.¹ The total mileage of both steam and electric roads in the county in 1936 was 317.6.

One of the principal industries of Danville is the railroad car and locomotive construction plant of the Chicago and Eastern Illinois Railroad Company. The city is connected with the countryside by hard roads as auxiliary to the steam and electric railroads; it is a shopping center of an area occupied by 175,000 people. It is as truly a hub city as the Old Salt Works was the center to which the Indian trails and the paths of the pioneers led in the beginning of the nineteenth century.

The development of railroad transportation in the county was an important factor in the growth of the mining industry, providing an outlet for coal to the markets of large industrial centers. Special reference to the existence of 21.8 miles of the Illinois Central Railroad that crosses the county north of the center from east to west is given here because it introduces that road into the sketch of the county. The history of the Illinois Central is so interwoven with the growth of the state for several decades that its construction constituted a large portion of the state's internal development. It was begun in 1837 and later abandoned after the general collapse of economic conditions that engulfed the country. A part of the line was subsequently revived by legislation, but the enterprise lacked vitality until Congress in 1850, under the persistent urging of Senators Sidney Breese and Stephen A. Douglas and others, granted to the state a tract of 2,595,000 acres through the central part of the state in aid of the railroad's construction. The charter provided for a right of way 200 feet wide through the public lands of the state from the southern terminus of the Illinois and Michigan Canal to a point at or near the junction of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, and for branches of the main line to Galena and Chicago. The railroad was granted every alternate section of land, designated by even numbers, for six miles on either side of the road and its branches.

The lands within the grant were taken from the market, and when replaced for sale two years later, had doubled in price, selling at a minimum of \$2.50 per acre. It was a period of land speculation. Speculators are said to have held in 1856 more than 15,000,000 acres in the

1. Seventeenth and Eighteenth Annual Reports of the Illinois Tax Commission (Springfield: Illinois Tax Commission, 1939), p. 182-205. Hereinafter cited at Seventeenth and Eighteenth Annual Tax Reports.

state. In the group was practically every prominent politician in Illinois with the exception of Abraham Lincoln. They held about all the land that had been in the public domain, excepting that portion owned by the Illinois Central Railroad and the state. One of the representatives of the class of land gamesters, in which, besides politicians, were small business men and eastern capitalists, was Senator Douglas.¹ "This large group of persons interested in speculation as a side issue comprised, perhaps, the most influential part of the population (of Illinois). Frequently, as in the case of Douglas, their land interests were subordinate to their political ambitions. This did not mean, however, that they did not seek special legislation for the benefit of their lands. It was they who sought to carry the Illinois Central and other railroads through out-of-the-way places."²

A condition made in the grant by the government to the Illinois Central required the company by act of the General Assembly to pay into the State Treasury five percent of the gross earnings of the road for all future time, and also three-fourths of one percent of stock and assets, or enough to make at least seven percent of the gross earnings as a perpetual revenue to the state. According to its charter the railroad is free from local, municipal, and state taxation. The state charter to the company was given a ratification clause in the Constitution of 1870.³

The scandals of railroad delinquency that characterized the period of early railroad expansion did not develop in the township governments of Vermilion County as they did in some township-county governments of the state. The widespread abuse of the credulity, gullibility, and the natural desire of the masses to better their circumstances was not practiced or tolerated in this county. Promoters and speculators apparently met a different sort of county officialdom here. The taxing power of the townships was carefully guarded. However, there was some use made of this function for the purpose of raising money with which to subscribe for stock in railroads projected through some townships. The supervisors in December, 1867, ordered that judges be paid for services at elections held in Grant and Butler townships. A vote was taken on the question of subscribing for stock or making an appropriation to the La Fayette and Bloomington Railroad Company.⁴ Again in 1868, the board held a meeting to consider the "propriety of appropriating a sum of money to aid in the construction of the Chicago, Danville and Vincennes Railroad." The board adopted a resolution to appropriate \$41,000 to encourage the construction of the line upon the following conditions:

1. Paul W. Gates, The Illinois Central Railroad and Its Colonization Work (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1934), p. 110-13.
2. Ibid., p. 113.
3. Constitution of 1870, Art. XIV, sec. 2.
4. Supervisors' Record, v. E, p. 525, 526.

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"Provided that no part of the said sum shall be paid until the main line of said railroad shall have been constructed and be in full operation to the city of Danville and within the corporate limits of Danville as existing when said railroad company was chartered, and also be constructed and in full operation from said city of Danville to the southern line of the County of Vermilion and be completed and in full operation through said County of Vermilion within three years from the first of August, 1868."¹

Taxation

In the early years of the county's history its surplus funds were loaned at interest by order of the court; the borrower provided bond and security for the amount borrowed. In 1842 the court authorized the county treasurer to lend Adam Pete the sum of \$184 in state paper, Pete having entered into bond and mortgage security for the amount. This was not infrequent practice of the thrifty county officials.² The financial soundness of the county was maintained until the period of the Civil War, when the officials, backed by the electorate, undertook to bear their full responsibility in support of the Union forces. Treasury surpluses were loaned and the investments added to the financial stability of the county. Naturally this kept the tax rate below what it would have been had the county fathers not been as thrifty as they were. Proposals for levying a tax on dogs failed again and again, until the burden of the war influenced sufficient number of the county supervisors to favor the measure. In March, 1863, an ordinance in relation to taxing dogs was adopted by the board, whereby one dollar a head was levied on "every dog, that was to be found or harbored or kept by any person in the county." The money arising from the tax when collected, was appropriated to the road fund of each respective township and paid over to the highway commissioners of said townships.³

By December, 1862, the war obligations were so heavy that a proposal to borrow money at ten percent interest with which to meet the county's obligations was pressed. The motion was lost, but by September, 1864, "the treasurer was authorized to negotiate a loan of not exceeding \$7,000 at the lowest rate of interest." At the same time the clerk was directed "to issue warrants on the treasury for such sums and to such persons as shall desire to loan to the county, said orders be made payable in three and one-half months from the date thereof, and bear such rate of interest as said treasurer may designate not exceeding ten percent per annum, and that the money thus raised he pay present indebtedness now due." At that time the treasurer reported to the board that he had overpaid on accounts, \$1,219.47. In September, 1865, the county treasurer was authorized to negotiate another loan, this time not to exceed \$10,000 on the credit

1. Supervisors' Record, v. E, p. 560.

2. Ibid., v. B, p. 479.

3. Ibid., v. E, p. 216.

of the county on as favorable terms as practicable in order to meet outstanding orders. In June, 1866, the treasurer was again authorized to borrow a sufficient sum of money to cover all deficiencies up to January, 1867. At this time the tax levy per township ranged from two cents on each hundred dollars of taxable property in Danville Township to ten cents in Butler and Grant townships.¹

In June of the following year the treasurer's report showed a balance of \$11,736.52; and in December, 1868, the committee which had under consideration the matter of building a new court house, reported that the county was out of debt and had money in the treasury.² So unpopular was the dog tax ordinance that a month before General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General U. S. Grant at Appomattox in April, 1865, it was repealed, the pressure for funds having slightly relaxed, though the county continued to borrow money as above indicated.³ Withal the frugality and tight control of county funds, the county officials administered support for the families of volunteers in the Union Army with generosity and paternal concern. In June, 1863, an effort was made by some in the board of supervisors to restrict supervisors of townships from creating debts for the support of the wives of soldiers. Opposition to the proposal urged a "generous and worthy support of those who have gone forth to battle for their country".⁴ The offending resolution was withdrawn after a heated discussion.

The abilities of Vermilion County officials in handling their financial affairs - balancing the budget and maintaining at the same time adequate public services from the very beginning of the county - were greatly exercised, the records of the county reveal. The money problem through the formative years of the state, and for sometime after the Civil War, was a matter which few understood; and many nostrums were advocated for the cure of the economic and taxation diseases so prevalent for more than a half century. Always alert to avoid pitfalls and ruin to the structure of county government which these pioneers had built, they steered a zigzag course around the rapids over which the state financial ship drifted. In 1862 the county board adopted a resolution directing the county's representatives in the senate and the house of representatives of the General Assembly to vote for the repeal of the law making coin the only currency for paying taxes.⁵ In 1842 the State Bank of Illinois failed, carrying widespread ruin all over the state. Its scattered notes amounted to more than \$3,000,000, and these state bank bills constituted most of the currency of the people. Though the notes had been falling in value for a long time, they suddenly became practically worthless. It became a problem to keep the state government going because the state could borrow no money. The internal im-

1. Supervisors' Record, v. E, p. 193, 304, 306, 346, 408, 416.
2. Ibid., p. 476, 582.
3. Ibid., p. 328.
4. Ibid., p. 226.
5. Ibid., p. 199.

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provement bubble had burst and the financial world believed Illinois would repudiate her already heavy indebtedness. The people had nothing except State Bank bills with which to pay taxes. The Governor, Auditor, and Treasurer of the state were authorized by the General Assembly to notify the public through the press that bills on the State Bank at Springfield would not be received for taxes. Bills on the State Bank at Shawneetown were exempted, and this permitted land speculators in particular to pay their revenue bills in worthless paper of that institution. The general effect of this was a widespread protest by the tax-payers of the state, including those of Vermilion County.

This situation continued to be a cause for complaint and unrest. In December, 1858, when the aggregate assessed value of personal and real estate property in the county was \$88,197.72, according to a statement filed with the county board by the clerk,¹ the board ordered that the county treasurer was authorized to receive the notes of all solvent banks of Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, the State Bank of Missouri, the State Bank of Louisiana, and the Southern Bank of New Orleans for all taxes due for 1858, and to obtain gold for the same at the lowest rates, which exchange the board agreed to pay out of the county treasury. The treasurer was required to accept after February 1, 1859, only gold and silver coin in payment of taxes. At the same time the board adopted a resolution instructing the county's representatives in the General Assembly to use their influence in having the revenue law so altered that taxes could be paid in notes of the solvent banks of Illinois.²

This situation was in part the background of the circumstance on which Abraham Lincoln was challenged to a duel by State Auditor James Shields. Lincoln had for a law partner in his Danville office, Ward Hill Lamon. As a circuit riding lawyer, Lincoln frequently attended court in Danville. He was well acquainted with the views of the tax-paying citizens of Vermilion and other counties respecting the requirement that taxes be paid in specie only. Lincoln wrote humorously satirical letters that were published in the Sangamon Journal, a Springfield newspaper, caricaturing the requirement that taxes be paid in coin; the entire scheme was described as a "plan for securing gold for office holders." Shields considered these letters, written in the vernacular of the day, as "abusive." Before Lincoln was freed with honor from the responsibilities of the duel, which was illegal in Illinois, a series of negotiations and much diplomatic buffoonery were engaged in by Lincoln's and Shields' seconds, who were more or less responsible for the challenge in the first place. It was a political faux pas which gave Lincoln much embarrassment and some mental agony.³

1. Supervisors' Record, v. D, p. 430.

2. Ibid., p. 431.

3. Albert J. Beveridge, Abraham Lincoln 1809-1858 (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company), II, p. 38-57.

The total value of taxable property in the county for the year 1866 was \$6,937,258. The value of the land was \$3,945,286; town lots, \$606,144; and personal property, \$2,385,828. The tax record showed 14,479 horses and 696 mules, valued at \$537,066. There were in 1935, 12,100 horses and mules in the county, valued at \$256,125. The value of 3,670 carriages and wagons in 1866 was given at \$105,250; and 3,030, clocks and watches at \$16,884. In 1935, the passenger automobiles in the county were valued at \$1,082,140, and trucks and busses at \$145,120. This data shows the change in means of urban and countryside transportation that took place between 1866 and 1935. They also show the difference in amounts invested in horses, carriages, wagons, and automobiles, trucks, and busses as motive power and conveyances within the county. In 1866 there were 24,900 "neat cattle" assessed at \$329,235; in 1935 there were 15,300 head of beef cattle and 15,600 head of dairy cattle assessed at \$467,010.¹ In comparison with the report on corn and wheat acreage given on page 87 of this Historical Sketch, the assessment report for 1866 showed 18,199 acres of wheat, 76,256 acres of corn, and 13,679 acres given over to other crops.

The taxable value of all real estate in 1938 was \$43,451,951.² The grand total of state and local assessments of real and personal property for 1936 was \$62,007,421, of which amount, \$7,796,211 was the total railroad assessment by the state tax commission, and \$54,197,310 was the total local assessment of taxable wealth, and \$13,900 was capital stock assessment. The grand total of state and local assessments of real and personal property for 1935 was \$62,103,859, of which amount, \$8,096,864 was the total railroad assessment by the state tax commission, and \$53,995,775 was the total local assessment of taxable wealth, and \$11,220 was capital stock assessment. The total tax levy on railroad property in 1866 was \$120,050.³ In 1936, the assessed value of real estate in the county (board of review figures) was \$43,646,840, of which \$23,448,030 was the assessed value of lands, and \$20,198,810 was that of lots. The comparative increased values of land and lots since 1866 may be figured from the respective values given above of lands and lots.⁴ The values of town and city real estate more nearly balanced than when the comparative figures were as one is to six in favor of farm land.

The shrinkage of the assessed valuation of taxable wealth to the amount of \$18,651,908 between 1935 and 1938 showed that the period of falling values in the economic depression that began the latter part of 1929 had not ended. The county being both industrial and agricultural in economic resources, maintained a stability of social organization that surpassed the self-reliance of those counties in the state where the

1. Supervisors' Record, v. E, p. 4 2-44; Seventeenth and Eighteenth Annual Tax Reports, p. 120.
2. Illinois Tax Commission Report, 1938.
3. Seventeenth and Eighteenth Annual Tax Reports, p. 220,232,280,282; Supervisors' Record, v. E, p. 444.
4. Seventeenth and Eighteenth Annual Tax Reports, p. 142.

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main economic resources were either industrial or agricultural, but not both. Nevertheless, the processes of economic disintegration that carried whole nations of the world into the stream of social breakdown, were to be observed in the whole ensemble of industrial, agricultural, commercial, civic, social, and cultural organizations of Vermilion County. Where the people's wealth shrinks, decays, or is wasted, the standards of high cultural and social achievement cannot be maintained. Material wealth is not stocks and bonds, gold or precious jewels, but rather goods, consumable and serviceable, which contribute to social well being and high endeavor.

Schools and Churches

Before the county was organized, a school was opened in what is now Elwood Township. It was a log school house one mile east of Vermilion Grove. Reuben Black, a youth of eighteen years, came from Ohio, and in the winter of 1824-25, secured enough subscription pupils to make it worth his while to open a school. He taught one winter. There were fourteen pupils, and, of course, the subjects taught were reading, writing, and arithmetic. This school was in existence almost two years before any one lived in Danville. In 1827, another school was organized two miles northeast of Vermilion Grove. This time the teacher was a Methodist preacher from Tennessee. The Reverend Elijah Yager introduced in his school the subject of declamation. The following summer this school was taught by Henry Fletcher.¹ From 1827 on, schools developed in other settlements of the county, such as the one at Butler's Point, and Georgetown, and one in the section now known as Newell Township. The schoolhouses were built of logs, had puncheon floors, greased paper for window panes, slabs for seats, and no desks. Quills were used for pens, and fireplaces provided heat during cold weather. The subscription tuition per pupil was usually from \$1.00 to \$1.50 for a term of three months; sometimes the tuition for the winter term was higher; a charge of twenty-five cents extra for fuel was added.

Long before the free public school became an established institution in the state, schools in Vermilion County had become an important factor in the cultural growth of the citizenry. Construction of school houses and the maintenance of an educational system paralleled the economic growth of the county and the rise of its political and civil institutions to maturity. The enabling act, passed by Congress, April 18, 1818, under which Illinois entered statehood, contained three conditions that were to govern the new state in the matter of public education. The first was that "section numbered sixteen in every township was granted to the state for the use of the inhabitants of

1. Jones, Vermilion County, Illinois, p. 326.

such township for the use of the schools." The second stipulation was that five percent of the net proceeds of the lands lying within the state, to be sold by Congress on and after the first day of January, 1819, after deducting all expenses incident to the same, were to be distributed under direction of Congress; two-fifths were to be for the construction of roads leading to the state; the residue was to be appropriated by the legislature of the state for the encouragement of learning, of which one-sixth part was to be exclusively bestowed on a college or university. The third requirement was that thirty-six sections or one entire township, to be designated by the President of the United States, together with one already reserved for that purpose, were to be reserved for the use of a seminary of learning. Title to the land was vested in the legislature, the land to be appropriated solely for the use of this seminary.¹

These propositions were offered on condition that public lands should not be taxed for five years after sale; that grants should enjoy the same prerogative for three years after date of patent, and that the lands of nonresidents should not be taxed higher than other lands. These conditions were accepted by the state convention that assembled to draft a constitution for the new commonwealth. The Constitution of 1818 was silent about schools as a public institution, although the national laws had made the state government the trustee for property interests in behalf of schools. This fact soon compelled action on the part of the General Assembly to pass laws for educational purposes.

The first General Assembly at its second session made provision for leasing the sixteenth-section lands, and provided for the protection of school land against timber thieving. It chartered the Madison Academy at Edwardsville, the Washington Academy at Carlyle, and the Academy at Belleville. The legislature of 1826 changed the free school feature of the law, requiring the vote of the district on the amount of funds to be raised by taxation, and provided that only those consenting could be taxed.

The ultimate realization of the program, that was materially provided for by Congress, did not come about for more than forty years after Illinois became a state. The subscription method of supporting schools provided that each school district should have eighteen students subscribed. The subscribing voters, and not the trustees, employed the teacher. The General Assembly of 1829 took away the two percent of the state revenue for the support of public schools.² This practically reduced education to a subscription basis. It remained that way until 1855 when the free public school, tax supported, was established.³

1. 3 U.S.S.L. 428.
2. R.L. 1829, p. 149.
3. L. 1855, p. 51.

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The total enrollment in secondary and elementary schools in 1937 was 18,810, which was eighty-three percent of the total number of school age. There were 209 school districts in the county, and 237 public school buildings; there was one rented building, making a total of 238 in use for school purposes. There were 232 libraries with 77,459 volumes. There were five private schools with a total enrollment of 520 in the secondary and elementary grades. Twenty-one districts were combined into five consolidated districts. There were 564 elementary school teachers, of which number, 476 were women and 88 men. There were 213 secondary school teachers, of which number, 126 were women and 87 men. The average annual salary for all teachers was \$1,065.10. The average for men teachers was \$1,436.54, and for women, \$957.13.¹

Among the social institutions that constituted a force in the development of the county was the church. Principally, among the early religious groups that participated through their adherents in the organization of the county were the Society of Friends (Quakers), the Roman Catholic Church, Protestant denominations, and the Mormons. As in the case of many other social forces and civic agencies, such as the public service for the care of indigents, emergency relief, work relief, mothers' pensions, old age assistance, pensions for the blind, and public health services, this Sketch is merely indicative of the complex of activities that are involved in the founding, evolution, and maturing of a county administrative unit of state government.

Conclusion

The county's participation in the Indian Wars, the Mexican, Civil, Spanish American, and World wars was a full expression of the sturdy character out of which its human wealth was formed. Immigration of peoples from European states has added to the vigor of modern county life. The infusion of new blood is a replenishing agent in the stream of American life. At the same time the new Old World element is being fashioned anew by the New World environment and institutions. This is America: and Vermilion County stands today as one of the typical examples of that combination of elements - material, human, institutional, and historical - that will fashion the future pattern of society, politically and economically, as splendidly as that fashioned by Achilles Morgan, Amos Williams, Dan W. Beckwith, James Butler, Asa Elliott, John W. Vance, and their equally deserving associates. There are names of persons, men and women, by the hundred, such as Joseph "Uncle Joe" G. Cannon, Ward Hill Lamon, Clint Clay Tilton, and L. A. Tugge whose services, activities, and achievements have gone into the making of Vermilion County. The cultural and material heritage of the present and of the future is such as to insure the county an important role in the solution of political and economic problems, as great if not greater than those faced by the intrepid pioneers of the Vermilion Salines.

1. Statistical Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, State of Illinois, 1937, p. 12,13,23,29,39,232.

2. GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION AND RECORDS SYSTEM

Introduction

The county in Illinois is a corporate body and an administrative unit of the state; its governmental organization is at all times largely an expression of this dual nature.

The growth of the county as a body politic is reflected, in each of the state's three constitutional periods, in a progressive expansion of the powers which may by law be exercised by the county board, and in the creation of new, and the extension of existing, county offices. The latter phase of growth in Vermilion County and in others similarly organized at present, has also been affected by the adoption of township organization, which for the first time constituted the civil towns as an additional level of government.

An analogous development appears in the state's invasion of new fields of government and the extension of the county's role as its agent. Originally, the county performed but a single important function for the state, that of collecting its share of the taxes levied within the county. Since then, however, education, public health, registration of vital statistics, public assistance, and many similar if less important matters have entered the province of state control or supervision. To effect this control, new governmental units, subcounty districts of various types, have come into existence or have been converted to new purposes; the county, because of its intermediate position, has become more important as a medium of that control.

Thus the complete operation of county government in Illinois brings into play a number of partly distinct authorities. Their relationships, at any time, are complex. The changing governmental organization of Vermilion County, therefore, is easiest traced from the viewpoint of the major functions of county government.

General Administration

General administrative jurisdiction over county business has always been vested in the county board. Under the first constitution, for all counties, the county commissioners' court acted as the county board.¹ It was expressly declared to have no original or appellate jurisdiction

1. R.L.1827, p. 107; R.S.1845, p. 130; R.S.1874, p. 306.

2. Constitution of 1818, Schedule, sec. 4; L.1819, p. 175,176.

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in civil or criminal actions, but had all power necessary to the exercise of its jurisdiction in cases concerning the public affairs of the county collectively.¹ The commissioners were constitutional officers,² and elected;³ the court existed solely by statutory provision.⁴ Attached to it in a ministerial capacity was the independent statutory office of clerk of the county commissioners' court,⁵ at first filled at the appointment of the court,⁶ later by election.⁷

Under the second constitution, the newly created county court succeeded to the position of the county commissioners' court.⁸ As an administrative body,⁹ it was composed of the county judge, an elected, constitutional officer,¹⁰ and two justices of the peace, elected at large.¹¹ Another new office, that of clerk of the county court, was created to provide it with a ministerial officer; the clerk also was elected.¹²

The Constitution of 1848 also made provision, for the first time, for an optional form of county government.¹³ The subsequent enabling acts¹⁴ provided that whenever the voters of a county might so determine, that county should adopt township organization; one of the principal results of such a change was to alter the form of the county board.¹⁵ Vermilion County so elected in 1850, and in 1851 the county court was succeeded by a board of supervisors, composed of members elected, one in each of the several townships.¹⁶ The clerk of the county court was required by law to act as the ministerial officer of the new county board.¹⁷ In 1872, however, that clerk was replaced by a new officer, the county clerk, whose office had

1. L.1819, p. 176.
2. Constitution of 1818, Schedule, sec. 4.
3. L.1819, p. 100; L.1821, p. 100; L.1837, p. 103,104.
4. L.1819, p. 175.
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid.
7. L.1837, p. 49; L.1845, p. 28.
8. Constitution of 1848, Art. V, sec. 19; L.1849, p. 65.
9. The county court was also a court of law. For its jurisdiction as such, see Administration of Justice, Courts, p. 107.
10. Constitution of 1848, Art. V, sec. 17.
11. Ibid., sec. 19; L.1849, p. 65,66.
12. Constitution of 1848, Art. V, sec. 19; L.1849, p. 63.
13. Constitution of 1848, Art. VII, sec. 6.
14. The original enabling act of 1849 (L.1849, p. 190-224) was repealed two years later by a more comprehensive but essentially similar law (L.1851, p. 35-78).
15. Other effects of the change, within the sphere of county government proper, appear with regard to the taxation procedure. See Finances, p. 104.
16. Constitution of 1848, Art. VII, sec. 6; L.1851, p. 38,50-52; Constitution of 1870, Art. X, sec. 5.
17. L.1849, p. 203; L.1851, p. 52.

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been created and made elective, by the third constitution,¹ and who was required by law to act as ministerial officer for the county board.² Another significant change in the form of the county board has been the addition to its membership of assistant supervisors, elected from the various towns on the basis of population;³ the assistant supervisors have no powers or duties as town officers, but are members of the county board and as such enjoy the same powers and rights as other members.⁴

The Constitution of 1870 also provided a new form of county board in counties not under township organization. This board was to be composed of three officers, styled commissioners, who would transact all county business as provided by law.⁵ Subsequent legislation granted to the board of county commissioners all powers and duties formerly exercised by the county court when acting in its administrative capacity.⁶ These laws were ineffective in Vermilion since this county has retained township organization since its institution in 1851.

Concurrent with the changing organization of the county board is an expansion of its functions without, however, considerable extension beyond the original jurisdiction conferred upon the county commissioners' court. The authority of that body extended to the imposition and regulation of taxes,⁷ a limited but increasing management of county property,⁸ and a growing fiscal control, stringent in regard to tax collections,⁹ sporadic in its check on the expenditures of other county offices.¹⁰ The court additionally had power to appoint judges of election,¹¹ select juries,¹² and, with limitations, to provide for the construction and maintenance of roads and bridges.¹³ Poor relief¹⁴ and a tentative supervision of education¹⁵ also fell within its general administrative jurisdiction.

1. Constitution of 1870, Art. X, sec. 8.
2. R.S.1874, p. 322.
3. Ibid., p. 1080; L.1925, p. 605; L.1929, p. 77⁴; L.1931, p. 905-10; L.1933, p.1115,1116.
4. R.S.1874, p. 1080.
5. Constitution of 1870, Art. X, sec. 6.
6. L.1873-74, p. 79.
7. L.1819, p. 175.
8. Ibid., p. 237,238; L.1842-43, p. 128.
9. L.1819, p. 238,318; L.1823, p. 208; R.L.1827, p. 373,375; R.L.1829, p. 121; L.1842-43, p. 112; L.1845, p. 11, 12.
10. R.L.1827, p. 366; L.1831, p. 175.
11. L.1819, p. 90.
12. Ibid., p. 255; L.1823, p. 182.
13. Either by calling on the able-bodied men of the county for labor, or by raising bond issues by subscription (L.1819, p. 333,334,336,337, 343; L.1821, p. 167; L.1825, n. 130-33).
14. L.1819, p. 127; L.1839, p. 138,139.
15. R.S.1845, p. 500,501.

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The effect of subsequent legislation, in the main, has only been to broaden that jurisdiction. The county board has been given full power to purchase, contract for, dispose of, and make regulations concerning all real and personal property of the county.¹ Until 1912 it was also required to audit all claims against the county and the accounts of such officers as were not provided for by law.² Otherwise, the changes in form of the county board in Vermilion County have not materially affected the general administrative jurisdiction of that body.³

Finances

In Illinois counties, there has always been a close relationship between the taxation processes and fiscal control. This circumstance, as well as frequent evidence of the county board's ultimate control in such matters, appears in a resume of the legal status and duties of the officers involved.

Taxation

The assessment function in taxation was delegated by the first General Assembly to the county treasurer, a statutory officer appointed by the county commissioners' court.⁴ The administrative body, within statutory limits, fixed the amount of the levy, while the value of many categories of real and personal property was fixed by law; however, a limited discretion was left to the assessing officer.⁵ In 1825 assessments were made by the county assessor, also an appointee of the county commissioners' court.⁶ This duty reverted to the county treasurer in 1827⁷ and continued to be vested in that office until 1839, when the General Assembly provided for the appointment by the county commissioners' court of district assessors, not to exceed one in every justice's district.⁸ The earlier system was reestablished in 1844, with the treasurer, however, now having the status of ex-officio county assessor.⁹ Since 1851, the date of the institution of township organization

1. L.1849, p. 202; L.1851, p. 50,51; L.1861, p. 235,236; R.S.1874, p. 306,307; L.1911, p. 245,246; L.1923, p. 304,305; L.1937, p. 453,454.
2. L.1849, p. 202; L.1851, p. 51. In 1911 provision was made for the election of an auditor in counties the size of Vermilion (L.1911, p. 242,243).
3. Compare this running summary with R.S.1874, p. 306,307, and R.S.1937, p. 910-12.
4. L.1819, p. 315.
5. Ibid., p. 313,319; L.1825, p. 173; L.1839, p. 4-6; L.1840, p. 4; L.1845, p. 6.
6. L.1825, p. 173.
7. R.L.1827, p. 330.
8. L.1839, p. 4.
9. L.1843, p. 231.

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in Vermilion County, the assessment function has been performed on the lower governmental level by town assessors, elected one in each township.¹ Today, the principal duties of the assessing officers, taken together, are to bring up to date each year the periodic assessment of real property, to take current lists of, and appraise personal property and special categories of other property.² The treasurer now has the status of ex-officio supervisor of assessments.³

Before the creation of a board of review the functions which today fall within its scope were performed, in substance, by various officers. In the first constitutional period, it was left to interested individuals or parties to report property omitted from assessment; the county commissioners' court could hear appeals from assessments, but there was no provision for their equalization by districts.⁴ During the second constitutional period, appeals, in Vermilion County, were made to the county court.⁵ After the institution of township organization in 1851, town boards were empowered to revise the assessments within their own jurisdiction, and the county board was required to meet annually to assess omitted property, review assessments upon complaint, and equalize valuations between towns.⁶ In 1898 this authority of the county board was transferred to the newly created board of review, composed of the chairman of the county board as ex-officio chairman, the county clerk as ex-officio clerk, and an additional member appointed by the county judge.⁷ In 1923 the county clerk was replaced by another member appointed by the county judge;⁸ the board of review now appoints its own clerk.⁹

The collection function was originally performed in all counties by the sheriff, an elected constitutional officer.¹⁰ Its nature has changed little since that time. Essentially, the collecting officer collects taxes according to information originating outside his jurisdiction, pays over such sums to authorities designated by statute to receive them, and reports on payments of taxes and delinquencies.¹¹ In 1839, by a development

1. L.1849, p. 192; L.1851, p. 38; L.1871-72, p. 20-24.
2. L.1853, p. 16,17; L.1855, p. 18,24,55; L.1871-72, p. 11,14,15,19,23; L.1873, p. 51; L.1879, p. 241-45; L.1881, p. 133; L.1885, p. 234; L.1895, p. 300,301; L.1905, p. 360; L.1915, p. 568; L.1923, p. 495,500; L.1927, p. 774; L.1931-32, First Sp. Sess., p. 69.
3. L.1898, p. 36-44.
4. L.1819, p. 316; R.L.1827, p. 330; L.1839, p. 7; L.1843, p. 239; L.1845, p. 8.
5. L.1849, p. 65.
6. L.1851, p. 56,57; L.1871-72, p. 21,22,24,25.
7. L.1898, p. 46.
8. L.1923, p. 496; L.1932, p. 75.
9. L.1923, p. 496,497.
10. Constitution of 1818, Art. III, sec. 11; L.1819, p. 316.
11. L.1819, p. 316-18; L.1821, p. 182-183; R.L.1827, p. 332,333; R.L.1829, p. 118,121-23; L.1831, p. 125; L.1837, p. 581,582; L.1839, p. 7-12; L.1843, p. 243; L.1845, p. 11; L.1847, p. 81; L.1871-72, p. 55,57,58.

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analogous to that which occurred with regard to assessments, the county board extended its control to appoint a regular county collector.¹ Soon after, the law reverted to the earlier situation, with the sheriff acting as ex-officio collector.² This situation continued until Vermilion County instituted township organization when town collectors were elected, one in each township,³ and the county treasurer became ex-officio county collector.⁴ The town officers paid over their collections directly to the county officer, and supplied the basic information for the latter's summary report of collections in the county.⁵ In 1917 the town office of collector was abolished in counties the size of Vermilion, and the county collector became ex-officio town collector, assuming all duties previously assigned to the latter officer.⁶

Coordination of the taxation processes has always been effected by the county clerk or his predecessors. The assessment books are made out by the clerk, and returned to him by the assessor; similarly, the collector reports on collections on delinquent property; finally, the treasurer's receipts to the collector for taxes paid come into his possession, and the centralization of records concerning the basic taxation procedure is completed.⁷

Fiscal Control

The fiduciary function in county finances is performed by the county treasurer alone. The duties of the office have remained substantially the same since its creation; namely, to receive, principally from the collectors of taxes, the revenue of the county; to have custody of its funds; and to disburse funds only on specific authorization by law, or in accordance with the order of the county board.⁸ Through this last requirement, and that of the treasurer to report periodically to the board on the transactions of his office, in addition to his regular settlement with it, the lines of financial authority once more lead to the county board.⁹

1. L.1838-39, p. 7.

2. L.1843, p. 234.

3. L.1849, p. 192; L.1851, p. 38.

4. L.1853, p. 67.

5. L.1871-72, p. 41,56,57.

6. L.1917, p. 793.

7. L.1819, p. 317; R.L.1827, p. 373; L.1837, p. 582; L.1839, p. 8-12; L.1840, p. 3; L.1845, p. 9,11; L.1853, p. 66,77,111; L.1871-72, p. 32, 34,35,46,56-58; L.1873-74, p. 51; L.1911, p. 485; L.1917, p. 654; L.1919, p. 765; L.1931, p. 747.

8. L.1819, p. 315,316; R.S.1845, p. 138; L.1861; p. 239; R.S.1874, p. 323, 324.

9. L.1819, p. 318; L.1837, p. 582,583; L.1845, p. 33; R.S.1845, p. 138, 139; L.1861, p. 239,240; R.S.1874, p. 323,324.

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The office of county auditor, in counties under township organization of more than seventy-five thousand and less than three-hundred thousand inhabitants, was first created in 1911.¹ This officer was charged with such duties as auditing claims against the county, collecting information on the cost of maintenance of county institutions, and approving orders for supplies. Recommendations and reports were to be made to the county board. By 1911 Vermilion County had already attained the population minimum, and the first auditor was elected in 1912.

Administration of Justice

Courts

Justice, in Illinois counties, has been administered by a constantly increasing number of bodies. The Constitution of 1818 vested the judicial powers of the state in a Supreme Court and such inferior courts as the General Assembly should ordain and establish; required the Supreme Court justices to hold circuit courts in the several counties; and provided for the appointment, in such manner and with such powers and duties as the General Assembly should direct, of a competent number of justices of the peace in each county.²

Federal statutes already allowed circuit courts, in all states, jurisdiction over the naturalization of aliens;³ the first state legislature additionally conferred jurisdiction over all causes at common law and chancery and over all cases of treason, felony, and other crimes and misdemeanors.⁴ The legislature further required that two terms of a circuit court be held in each county annually by one of the Supreme Court justices,⁵ but in 1824 provision was made for the holding of circuit courts by separate circuit court judges, to be appointed, as were the Supreme Court justices, by both branches of the General Assembly, and to hold office during good behavior.⁶ In 1827 the General Assembly repealed the 1824 law, and again provided for circuit courts to be held by Supreme Court justices.⁷ At the next session of the legislature, when a new circuit was established, pro-

1. L.1911, p. 242,243.

2. Constitution of 1818, Art. IV, sec. 1,4,8.

3. 2 U.S.S.L. 153-55.

4. L.1819, p. 380.

5. Ibid., p. 378.

6. L.1824, p. 41. The Constitution of 1818, which had required that Supreme Court justices be appointed by the General Assembly, further provided that they should not, after the first session of the legislature subsequent to January 1, 1824, hold circuit courts unless required to do so by law (Art. IV, sec. 4).

7. R.L.1827, p. 118,119.

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vision was made for the appointment of a circuit judge to act therein.¹ At that time, therefore, the circuit courts were held by Supreme Court justices in four judicial circuits and by a circuit judge in the fifth.² A change was made again in 1835, when power to hold circuit courts was taken away from the Supreme Court justices and provision was made for the appointment of five circuit judges, in addition to the one already authorized, to hold circuit courts.³ The six judicial circuits existing at that time were supplemented during the next few years by the creation of new circuits,⁴ so that they numbered nine in 1841 when the office of circuit judge was again abolished and the Supreme Court justices, also increased to nine, were required to hold circuit courts.⁵

The authority of justices of the peace was limited by law to jurisdiction in specified civil cases and in misdemeanors, with appeals allowed from their judgments to the circuit court.⁶ The power of appointment, the legislature at first reserved to itself;⁷ in 1827, however, justices of the peace were required to be elected, two in each of such districts as should be determined within statutory limits by the county commissioners' court.⁸

Jurisdiction over probate matters was at the outset delegated to the county commissioners' court.⁹ By act of the next General Assembly, it was transferred to the court of probate,¹⁰ consisting in each county of one judge appointed by the General Assembly.¹¹ As a result of the substitution in 1837 of probate justices of the peace for the judges of probate,¹² jurisdiction over probate matters for the first time was placed in the hands of elected officers.¹³

1. R.L.1829, p. 38.

2. Ibid., p. 42,48.

3. L.1835, p. 150.

4. L.1837, p. 113; L.1838-39, p. 155.

5. L.1841, p. 173.

6. L.1819, p. 185,192,195.

7. Ibid., p. 22.

8. R.L.1827, p. 255,256. Since 1821, however, the county commissioners' court had been required to establish such districts, which also constituted general election precincts (L.1821, p. 74). For changes in the statutory limitations of this power of the court, see R.L.1827, p. 255, and R.L.1829, p. 93.

9. L.1819, p. 223-33.

10. L.1821, p. 121.

11. Ibid., p. 119. The Constitution of 1818 (Art. IV, sec. 4) had also designated this manner of election for judges of all inferior courts.

12. L.1837, p. 176,177.

13. The Constitution of 1818 (Art. IV, sec. 8) had reserved to the General Assembly the right to prescribe the manner of appointment of justices of the peace.

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The county court was the creation of the second constitution,¹ which also made circuit judges elected officers.² With regard to the new court, it was further provided by law that it should be held in each county by a single elected officer, the county judge.³ Its authority was extended to jurisdiction in all probate matters, and to such jurisdiction in civil and criminal cases as might be conferred by the General Assembly.⁴ In pursuance of this latter provision, the county court was first given the same civil and criminal jurisdiction as justices of the peace;⁵ at the same session of the General Assembly, however, it was declared that county judges when exercising this jurisdiction, acted only in the capacity of justices of the peace.⁶ Until the next constitutional period, the county court, as such, was given jurisdiction only in a limited number of special actions;⁷ it was however, considered entitled to equal jurisdiction with the circuit court over naturalization.⁸ In this same period, provision was made for increasing, on the basis of population, the number of justices of the peace to be elected in each district. In Vermilion County, and others similarly organized, one additional justice of the peace is now elected for every one thousand inhabitants exceeding two thousand inhabitants in each town.⁹

Provision was first made by the Constitution of 1870 for the establishment by the General Assembly of an independent probate court in each county having a population of more than fifty thousand inhabitants.¹⁰ As first established by statute, the new courts were to be formed in counties of one hundred thousand or more inhabitants.¹¹ This population requirement was lowered to seventy thousand in 1881.¹² The population of Vermilion County reached this figure in 1910, and a separate probate court was established in the county in 1910. The county court, early in this period, was given concurrent jurisdiction with the circuit court in appeals from

1. Constitution of 1848, Art. V, sec. 1,16.

2. Ibid., sec. 7,15.

3. Ibid., sec. 17.

4. Ibid., sec. 18.

5. L.1849, p. 65.

6. Ibid.

7. Ibid., p. 65,66; L.1853, p. 103; L.1861, p. 171,172.

8. 2 U.S.S.L. 155.

9. L.1854, p. 30. No more than five justices, however, may be elected from any town or election precinct.

10. Constitution of 1870, Art. VI, sec. 20.

11. L.1877, p. 79,80.

12. L.1881, p. 72. In 1933, the act of 1877 was further amended to make the establishment of an independent probate court mandatory in counties having a population of eighty-five thousand or more; and optional in counties having a population of between seventy thousand and eighty-five thousand (L.1933, p. 458).

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justices of the peace;¹ its original jurisdiction was extended to be equal with that of the circuit court in all that class of cases cognizable by justices of the peace² and involving in controversy sums not exceeding \$500.³ In 1906, however, it lost its naturalization jurisdiction since it failed to meet the additional requirement of Federal legislation that it possess jurisdiction at law without limitation upon amounts in controversy.⁴ The present constitution, also, for the first time, directed the manner in which the General Assembly should establish judicial circuits, requiring that circuits be formed of contiguous counties and that they should not exceed in number one circuit for every one hundred thousand of population of the state.⁵ At present there are eighteen circuits in Illinois, and Vermilion County is attached to the fifth circuit.⁶

Clerks of Courts

The clerk of the circuit court under the Constitution of 1818, was to be appointed by a majority of the justices of that court.⁷ Since 1849, however, by provisions of the constitutions of 1848 and 1870, the office has been filled by election.⁸ The office of clerk of the county court, which was an independent elective office under the second constitution,⁹ is now filled in an ex-officio capacity by the county clerk¹⁰ who is also required by constitutional provision to be elected.¹¹ The county commissioners' court, which for a brief period held jurisdiction over probate matters, had its own clerk who was at that time appointed by the court.¹² Probate judges and justices of the peace who subsequently held probate jurisdiction, were required to act as their own clerks.¹³ With the transfer of probate jurisdiction to the county court, the clerk of the county court was required to keep, separately, records of probate proceedings and business.¹⁴ In Vermilion County since 1910, a clerk of the probate court has been elected by the county electorate at the same time and for the same

1. R.S.1874, p. 340; L.1877, p. 77; L.1895, p. 212,223.

2. The jurisdiction of justices has also been progressively increased during this period. See L.1871-72, p. 524; L.1895, p. 189,190; L.1917, p. 562,563; L.1929, p. 541,542.

3. L.1871-72, p. 325.

4. 34 U.S.S.L. 596.

5. Constitution of 1870, Art. VI, sec. 13.

6. L.1933, p. 436.

7. Constitution of 1818, Art. IV, sec. 6.

8. Constitution of 1848, Art. V, sec. 21,29; Constitution of 1870, Art. X, sec. 8.

9. Constitution of 1848, Art. V, sec. 19.

10. R.S.1874, p. 260.

11. Constitution of 1870, Art. X, sec. 8.

12. L.1819, p. 175.

13. L.1821, p. 119,120; L.1837, p. 177,178.

14. L.1849, p. 66.

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term of office as the probate judge.¹ Justices of the peace have always been required to keep their records in person.²

Ministerial Officers

The principal ministerial officer of all courts of record in Illinois counties is the sheriff. The first constitution provided that the sheriff should be elected.³ Later, in 1827, statutory provision was made for the appointment of deputies by the principal officer;⁴ since 1870, the number of deputies that the sheriff may appoint is determined by rule of the circuit court.⁵ The ministerial duties of the sheriff have undergone little change in more than one hundred years. Essentially he is to attend, in person or by deputy, all courts of record in the county, obeying the orders and directions of the court, and to serve, execute, and return all writs, warrants, process, orders, and decrees legally directed to him.⁶

The coroner was originally given equal power with the sheriff as a ministerial officer of the courts.⁷ He was also required to serve all process in any suit in which the sheriff was an interested party⁸ and to perform all the duties of the sheriff when that office was vacant.⁹ The last two functions are still incumbent upon the coroner.¹⁰

Justices of the peace are served similarly in a ministerial capacity by constables. Not until 1870 was the office of constable given constitutional recognition;¹¹ at its creation by the first General Assembly, the county commissioners' court was empowered to appoint one or more constables in each township;¹² in 1827 it was provided that two constables should be

1. L.1877, p. 82.
2. L.1819, p. 185-97 (no specific record-keeping requirement listed among general duties of justices), 326 (establishing fees to be paid justices for keeping records); R.L.1827, p. 260 (becomes definite provision for justices to keep own records); L.1895, p. 221,222.
3. Constitution of 1818, Art. III, sec. 11.
4. R.L.1827, p. 373.
5. Constitution of 1870, Art. X, sec. 9.
6. L.1819, p. 111; R.S.1874, p. 990,991.
7. L.1819, p. 111.
8. L.1821, p. 20-23.
9. R.L.1827, p. 372,373.
10. Despite the absence from the present law of statutory provision for the coroner to serve process originally directed to him (R.S.1874, p. 281,282), the courts have held that he may so do, an emergency being presumed to exist without need for the process to recite reason for its issuance to the coroner (20 Ill. 185; 57 Ill. 268).
11. Constitution of 1870, Art. VII, sec. 21.
12. L.1819, p. 162.

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elected in each justice of the peace district.¹ Since that date, subsequent legislation has grouped justices of the peace and constables in all provisions regarding their election.² Constables, like sheriffs and coroners, have always been required to serve and execute all process legally directed to them;³ process issuing from a justice of the peace court, however, may be directed only to some constable of the same county.⁴

Prosecutions

The duty of the present state's attorney to prosecute and defend all actions, civil or criminal, involving the county, the people, or officers of the state or county,⁵ was incumbent originally upon the circuit attorney.⁶ In 1827 this officer was replaced by the state's attorney.⁷ Also in effect from an early date is the officer's other major duty, apart from the enforcement of law,⁸ of giving opinions on any questions of law relating to criminal or other matters in which the people of the county may be concerned.⁹

The office of the circuit attorney and early state's attorney, which existed solely by statutory provision,¹⁰ were appointive by the Governor until 1835,¹¹ and thereafter by the General Assembly.¹² The second constitution provided for an elected state's attorney;¹³ since each judicial circuit was an elective district for this purpose, the territorial jurisdiction of the new officer remained the same as that of the former officer.¹⁴ Not until the adoption of the present constitution was provision made for the election of a separate state's attorney in each county.¹⁵

1. R.L.1827, p. 258.

2. See Courts, p. 107.

3. L.1819, p. 162,163; R.S.1874, p. 400.

4. L.1819, p. 186; R.S.1845, p. 317; L.1871-72, p. 525; L.1895, p. 191, 193; L.1937, p. 900. Similarly, process issuing from courts of record is required to be directed to the sheriff or, under certain conditions noted (footnotes 7,8, and 9, p. 111), to the coroner (R.S.1845, p. 413; L.1871-72, p. 338; L.1907, p. 444,445; L.1933, p. 786; L.1937, p. 989).

5. R.S.1874, p. 173,174.

6. L.1819, p. 204; L.1825, p. 178,179.

7. R.L.1827, p. 79,80.

8. See Enforcement of Law, p. 113.

9. R.S.1845, p. 76; R.S.1874, p. 174.

10. L.1819, p. 204-6.

11. Ibid., p. 204.

12. L.1835, p. 44.

13. Constitution of 1848, Art. V, sec. 21. The new title, however, had already come into occasional use in the interim (R.L.1827, p. 79,80; L.1835, p. 44; L.1847, p. 18,19).

14. Constitution of 1848, Art. V, sec. 22,28.

15. Constitution of 1870, Art. VI, sec. 22.

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Inquests

The holding of inquests, one of the duties of the coroner in Illinois counties, is also a part of the administration of justice. The office of coroner was created by the first constitution and required to be filled by election;¹ the statutory provisions concerning the inquest function have not changed substantially since their enactment by the second General Assembly.² The coroner, when informed of the body of any person being found dead, supposedly by violence, casualty, or undue means, is required to summon a jury to inquire how, in what manner, and by whom or what, death was caused; testimony of witnesses is taken; witnesses whose evidence implicates any person as the unlawful slayer of the deceased are bound over to the circuit court; the verdict of the jury is returned to the clerk of that court.³

The verdict of the coroner's jury, however, is not generally admissible in evidence;⁴ additionally, it is not held to be *prima facie* proof of matters stated therein with regard to the cause and manner of death;⁵ its essential nature, therefore, is that of a finding of facts upon the basis of which the coroner may be led to discharge his collateral duty to apprehend and commit to jail any person implicated by the inquest as the unlawful slayer of the deceased.⁶ To this extent, the coroner's inquest duties overlap his function as an officer for the enforcement of law.

Enforcement of Law

Sheriffs, coroners, and constables have always been charged equally with keeping the peace and apprehending all offenders against the law.⁷ The state's attorney's powers as an officer for the enforcement of law originally derive by implication from another duty;⁸ the gathering of evidence and the apprehension of offenders is necessarily involved in com-

2. Constitution of 1818, Art. III, sec. 11.

2. Cf. L.1821, p. 22-24; R.S.1845, p. 517,518; R.S.1874, p. 282-84; R.S.1937, p. 780-82.

3. L.1821, p. 24,25; R.S.1845, p. 518; R.S.1874, p. 284; L.1878, p. 82; L.1907, p. 213; L.1919, p. 403,404; L.1931, p. 383,389.

4. 46 N.W. 872. It is, however, held to be proper practice to offer in cross-examining witnesses sought to be impeached, excerpts from transcripts of testimony taken at the inquest (189 Ill. App. 556; 211 Ill. App. 474).

5. 201 Ill. App. 287.

6. L.1821, p. 25; R.S.1845, p. 518; R.S.1874, p. 285.

7. L.1819, p. 111,162,163; R.S.1845, p. 328,515; R.S.1874, p. 400, 990.

8. See Prosecutions, p. 112.

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mencing and prosecuting actions in which the people of the state or county are concerned.¹ In relatively recent years, however, the state's attorney has been given more specific statutory powers to enforce laws and to investigate violations and secure necessary evidence thereof.² But at any time the effective spheres of authority of law enforcement officers have been determined less by statutory provisions than by local conditions and individual circumstances.

Education

The act of Congress providing for the creation and admission of the State of Illinois to the Union set aside section sixteen of every township for the use of schools.³ The first state legislation on the subject was concerned only with the establishment of school districts and the sale or leasing of school land to provide necessary funds, for which purposes three trustees of school lands were appointed in each township by the county commissioners' court.⁴

In 1825, however, with a common school system in operation, provision was made for its educational as well as financial administration. Three elected officers, known as township school trustees, were charged in each township with superintending schools, examining and employing teachers, leasing all lands belonging to the district, and reporting annually to the county commissioners' court; this report, however, was limited to such matters as were concerned in the financial administration of the schools.⁵ In 1827 the county commissioners' court was again empowered to appoint trustees of school lands, but despite the use of the earlier, more limited title, these officers were charged with all the duties of the former township school trustees.⁶ The creation of office of county school commissioner in 1829 brought a new element into the complex situation. The commissioner was at first given limited duties with regard to the sale of school lands and the management of school funds;⁷ his subsequent gains in this respect at the expense of the township trustees foreshadowed the demarcation of spheres of authority that was made in 1847.⁸ In the interim, the school commissioner, who had first been appointed by the county commissioners'

1. L.1819, p. 204; R.S.1845, p. 76.

2. L.1885, p. 3; L.1907, p. 268; L.1913, p. 395; L.1915, p. 368; L.1927, p. 33.

3. 3 U.S.S.L. 428.

4. L.1819, p. 107, 108.

5. L.1825, p. 121, 122.

6. R.L.1827, p. 366-70.

7. R.L.1829, p. 150-54.

8. Cf. L.1831, p. 176; L.1841, p. 275-79.

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court,¹ became an elected officer;² in such townships as elected to incorporate for the purpose of organizing and supporting schools, township trustees also became elected officers and were then denominated trustees of schools.³

The situation created by the legislation of 1847 in certain respects has not since been substantially altered. In all counties, township trustees became, and are still, elected officers, styled township school trustees.⁴ The relative authority of the officer of the county⁵ and of officers of the township with regard to financial administration was fixed essentially as at present.⁶ Moreover, township trustees lost practically all their former duties with regard to matters purely educational as a result of a development that occurred in 1845.

It was at that time that the county first entered into the actual administration of education with the creation of the office of superintendent of schools.⁷ Filled at first by the school commissioner in an ex-officio capacity,⁸ it quickly absorbed most of the functions of township trustees with regard to the advancement of education;⁹ later, the office came to be filled by election¹⁰ and completely absorbed that of school commissioner.¹¹ In the new field of county administration of education, the superintendent's duties remained constant through his change in legal status, requiring him to visit all the townships in his county and inquire into the condition and manner of conducting their schools, to examine persons proposing to teach school, to grant certificates to persons qualified to teach in schools, and to report to the county board on all his acts relating to the management

1. R.L.1829, p. 150.

2. L.1841, p. 261,262.

3. L.1841, p. 273,274. In unincorporated townships, trustees continued to be appointed by the county commissioners' court (*ibid.*, p. 259,260).

4. L.1847, p. 126; L.1909, p. 350.

5. The subsequent substitution of an independent elected superintendent of schools for the school commissioner who had additionally been ex-officio superintendent (see footnotes 8,9, and 10), was only a change in the legal status of the officer of the county and had no further import.

6. L.1847, p. 123,124,128,129; L.1909, p. 351-54; L.1927, p. 794,795.

7. R.S.1845, p. 498.

8. *Ibid.*

9. R.S.1845, p. 497-503. Cf. L.1825, p. 121,122; R.L.1827, p. 366-70; L.1831, p. 173; L.1841, p. 270,275,276,279. The only duty of this category that was left to township trustees in the laws of 1847 concerned the examination of prospective teachers and the issuance of certificates where merited (L.1847, p. 130). It was omitted from the revised school law of 1851 (L.1851, p. 127).

10. L.1865, p. 112.

11. *Ibid.*, p. 112,113.

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of school funds and lands.¹ Subsequent legislation has enlarged the scope of this phase of the superintendent's functions, but it is in his role as an agent of state supervision that he has been charged with numerous duties of a new character.²

The authority of the state with regard to education, first manifested in 1845, has, like that of the county, been extended beyond its original bounds. Originally the county superintendent was required only to communicate to the State Superintendent of Common Schools³ information concerning the schools in his county.⁴ Today, as a consequence of the state's increasing intervention in matters of public health and safety, the county superintendent is required to inspect, with regard to specifications, plans submitted to him for the heating, ventilation, lighting, etc., of public school rooms and buildings; to visit and notice such public school buildings which appear to him to be unsafe, insanitary, or otherwise unfit for occupancy; and to request the Department of Public Health,⁵ the state fire marshal, or the state architect to inspect such buildings and issue reports upon which condemnation proceedings can be based.⁶

Recordation

For the function of making legal record of written instruments, the first General Assembly established the office of recorder.⁷ Originally appointed by the Governor,⁸ the recorder was required to be elected after 1835.⁹ The second constitution made the clerk of the circuit court¹⁰ ex-officio recorder in all counties;¹¹ the present constitution continued the earlier provision in counties of under sixty thousand population and provided for the election of a recorder in counties of that population or

1. R.S.1845, p. 498,500,501. Cf. L.1847, p. 121-25; L.1857, p. 261-65, 278,279,296,297; L.1861, p. 190,191; L.1865, p. 114,119-21.

2. L.1909, p. 347-50; L.1915, p. 636-38.

3. The Secretary of State in ex-officio capacity (L.1845, p. 52). In 1854 the office became independent, filled by election, and known as that of Superintendent of Public Instruction (L.1854, p. 13), which is its present status (L.1909, p. 343).

4. L.1845, p. 54.

5. Prior to 1917, the rights, powers, and duties of this department were vested in the State Board of Health, abolished in that year (L.1917, p. 4,17,27).

6. L.1915, p. 637-40.

7. L.1819, p. 18-20.

8. Ibid., p. 18,19.

9. L.1835, p. 166.

10. An elected officer; see Clerks of Courts, p. 110.

11. Constitution of 1848, Art. V, sec. 19; L.1849, p. 64.

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more.¹ Vermilion County met the population requirement in 1900, and a recorder was elected in the same year.

The basic duty of the recorder, to record at length and in the order of their receipt all instruments in writing, has remained essentially unchanged; legislation has been directed toward the extension of categories of instruments entitled to be recorded.² Conveyances of title to land, a major category of such records, frequently involve another county officer, the surveyor. Established by the second General Assembly, the office of surveyor was at first filled by appointment by that body,³ later by election.⁴ In 1936 the surveyor again became an appointed officer, with the power of appointment delegated to the county board.⁵ His duty to perform all surveys he may be called on to make within his county has undergone only minor change, but its importance has declined; the acts of any surveyor, properly acknowledged and certified, have equal standing before the law with those of the county surveyor; no maps or plats have any legal effect unless recorded by the recorder.⁶

Public Works

Roads and Bridges

Public roads and bridges were first under the superintendence of the county commissioners' court which was authorized to locate new roads and alter or vacate existing roads.⁷ The act providing for such superintendence empowered the commissioners to appoint freeholders in each township to act as supervisors, each appointment to be for a one-year period. New roads were to be opened by the county commissioners' court upon petition of residents of the county and a favorable report from the road viewers and surveyor. A few years later the county commissioners were authorized to divide the county into road districts and to appoint annually one supervisor to serve in each district.⁸ With a change in the county administrative body under the second constitution, the county court was granted

1. Constitution of 1870, Art. X, sec. 8; R.S.1874, p. 833.
2. L.1819, p. 18,20; R.L.1829, p. 117,118; R.L.1833, p. 511; R.S.1845, p. 305,432,606; L.1851, p. 80; L.1859, p. 124; L.1869, p. 2; R.S.1874, p.833,834; L.1921, p. 756,757; L.1925, p. 520-22.
3. L.1821, p. 62.
4. L.1835, p. 166.
5. L.1933, p. 1104. Provision effective in 1936.
6. R.L.1829, p. 173; R.L.1833, p. 511; L.1845, p. 201; L.1869, p. 241,242; R.S.1874, p. 1050,1051; L.1901, p. 307,308; L.1915, p. 575.
7. L.1819, p. 333.
8. L.1825, p. 130.

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supervision and control over public roads,¹ but the care and superintendence of roads and bridges in counties electing the township form of government were granted to the commissioners of highways, elected annually in each town.² The commissioners divided the town into road districts, and overseers of highways in each district were to repair the roads and carry out orders of the commissioners. In counties not electing the township form, the system of road districts was continued.³ The supervision, control, and maintenance of roads, highways and bridges in Vermilion County were vested in the county court and the road district supervisors from 1849 to 1851, when township organization was instituted in this county.⁴ In 1913 the State Highway Department was established, and provision was made for the appointment by the county board of a county superintendent of highways.⁵ The entire system was centralized by subjecting the county superintendent to the rules and regulations of the state highway commissioner and by requiring candidates for county superintendent to be approved by the state commissioner before appointment by the county board. The term of office of the county superintendent was set at six years, and his salary was to be fixed by the county board. A board of highway commissioners was set up in each township to superintend matters relating to roads and bridges. Although the county superintendent was to act on behalf of the county in regard to roads and bridges, and although he was subject to removal by the county board, he was regarded as a deputy of the state highway engineer, subject to his directions. This indicates the intention of the legislature to unify the entire state system of roads and bridges. In 1917 the Department of Public Works and Buildings assumed the rights, powers, and duties vested in the State Highway Department,⁶ but the county organization has remained essentially the same since 1913.

Public Buildings

The county is given the power to hold, own, and convey real estate for county purposes.⁷ This power is exercised by the county board which is charged with the care and custody of all the real and personal property owned by the county. Throughout the period of statehood it has been provided that a courthouse and jail be erected in each county,⁸ and that the sheriff of each county be charged with custody of such buildings.⁹ The

1. L.1849, p. 65; L.1851, p. 179.

2. L.1849, p. 212.

3. L.1847, p. 111-13; L.1849, p. 65,212,213; L.1851, p. 64,149.

4. Vermilion County adopted township organization in 1850, which became effective in 1851.

5. L.1913, p. 521-25,537-46.

6. Ibid., p. 524,525,538,542-44; L.1917, p. 24; L.1921, p. 780-86; L.1933, p. 961.

7. R.S.1874, p. 306.

8. L.1819, p. 237,238; R.S.1845, p. 135; R.S.1874, p. 307,308.

9. L.1819, p. 111; R.L.1827, p. 246,247,372; R.S.1874, p. 990.

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county is further empowered to erect buildings for a county hospital, workhouse, tuberculosis sanitarium, and other county needs.¹

The county superintendent of schools is charged with the inspection of plans and specifications for public school rooms and buildings; and the approval of only those which comply with the specifications prepared by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.² He is also to request the Department of Public Health,³ the state fire marshal, or the state architect to inspect public school buildings which appear to be unsafe, insanitary, or unfit for occupancy. Upon receipt of an unfavorable report from these officials, the county superintendent is to condemn the building and notify the board of directors or board of education, and the board of school trustees.

Drainage

In 1850 an act of Congress provided for the granting of swamp and overflowed lands to various states.⁴ The land so granted to Illinois was turned over to the counties in 1852 to be reclaimed by drainage and used for county purposes.⁵ Such lands were to be under the care and superintendence of the county court which was to appoint a "Drainage Commissioner" to conduct the sales of such lands. The county surveyor was to prepare plats of the swamp lands and return such plats to the clerk of the county court, whereupon the court fixed the valuation upon each tract. The purchasers of these tracts were given a certificate by the drainage commissioner, and a deed was later executed by the county court. The court was to sell only enough swamp lands to insure reclamation of all such land, any balance to be granted to the several townships to be used for educational purposes. At the discretion of the county, such balance could also be used for the construction of roads or bridges, or for other public works.

In 1865 the commissioners of highways in each town became ex-officio boards of drainage commissioners.⁶ Where a proposed drain ran through more than one town the commissioners of all the towns affected made up the board of drainage commissioners.⁷ In 1879 drainage construction by special assessment was handled by the drainage commissioners, a body corporate and politic composed of commissioners of highways.⁸

1. R.S.1874, p. 307; L.1909, p. 163; L.1911, p. 246.

2. L.1915, p. 637-40.

3. Created in 1917 to supplant the State Board of Health, abolished in that year (L.1917, p. 4,17,27).

4. 9 U.S.S.L. 519.

5. L.1852, p. 178.

6. L.1865, p. 50.

7. L.1867, p. 91,92.

8. L.1879, p. 142.

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Provision was first made for the organization of drainage districts for agricultural, sanitary, and mining purposes in 1879. Petitions were to be filed with the county clerk and hearings on the same were to be had before the county court. When the court found in favor of the petitioners, it appointed three disinterested persons as commissioners to lay out and construct the work. Petitions for the construction of drains to cost less than \$5,000 were to be presented to justices of the peace, if the petitioners so elected, and the commissioners of highways were to perform the duties of drainage commissioners in such cases.¹ In 1885 this law was amended to include drains costing less than \$2,000 and provided for the appointment of three residents as commissioners.²

Public Services

Public Health

The State Department of Public Health, created in 1917,³ is charged with general supervision of the health and lives of the people of the state. In conformance with this legislative order it is empowered to supervise, aid, direct, and assist local health authorities or agencies in the administration of the health laws. Public health districts may be organized along subcounty lines with a board of health in each. The names of such districts are to be filed with the county clerk to complete their organization. Annually, each board of health certifies to the county clerk the rate of a public health tax to be levied in each district, the clerk being responsible for setting out the proper taxes upon the warrant books and transmitting them to the collector as provided for in regard to other taxes.⁴

Control of the state health department over lodging houses, boarding houses, taverns, inns, and hotels is effected through the county clerk, the proprietors of such establishments being required to file with the clerk an annual statement containing details as to sleeping accommodations for guests.⁵ The clerk is also required to report annually to the state health department the names and addresses of township officials.⁶

Mosquito abatement districts are organized upon petition to the county judge of the county in which such territory lies, such petitions being filed with the county clerk. If, after hearing, the county judge determines that the organization of a district is necessary, the question

1. L.1879, p. 120.

2. L.1885, p. 130,131.

3. L.1917, p. 4.

4. Ibid., p. 27,28,763,765,767,768.

5. L.1901, p. 305.

6. L.1923, p. 480.

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is submitted to the residents of the territory at a special election. The judges of election make return to the county judge, and the results are entered upon the records of the county court. A majority of the votes favoring it, a mosquito abatement district is thereupon organized.¹

County officials also enter into the state's control of public swimming pools. When a representative of the State Department of Public Health finds conditions that warrant the closing of such a pool, the owner of the pool and the sheriff and state's attorney of the county are notified to that effect, it being the duty of these officers to enforce such notice.²

Vital Statistics

The State Department of Public Health has charge of the registration of births, stillbirths, and deaths throughout the state.³ To effect proper control of this matter the state is divided into vital statistics registration districts which, in Vermilion County, are identical with the townships. The township clerk acts as the local registrar in these districts and receives certificates of births and deaths occurring in the district. Burial permits are issued by the registrar and are later returned to him for filing.

The local registrar is required to deposit monthly with the county clerk a complete set of records of births, stillbirths, and deaths registered during the month, and the clerk is charged with binding and indexing, or recording, and safekeeping of such records. The original certificates are sent monthly by the local registrars to the state health department which certifies annually to the county clerk the number of births, stillbirths, and deaths registered in the county.

The county board is to appropriate money for the payment of the local registrars' fees. Such amounts are charges against the county, and the county clerk is required to issue warrants on the county treasurer for the amount of the fees payable to the registrars.

The county also enters into the enforcement phase of this matter. The state health department reports cases of violations of any provisions of the act relating to registration to the state's attorney who is to initiate and follow up court proceedings against violators.

Public Assistance

Public assistance is administered through the services of the county department of public welfare, the county home, the blind examiner, the

1. L.1927, p. 694.

2. L.1931, p. 735, 736.

3. L.1915, p. 660-70.

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probation officers, the county clerk, and the county board.

The county department of public welfare is headed by a superintendent appointed by the county board after approval by the State Department of Public Welfare.¹ He assists the state department in the operation of welfare plans and policies within the county and has charge of the administration of old age assistance.² In this latter regard the county department acts merely as the agent of the state department, investigating applicants and reporting results.

The county home is an establishment for the maintenance and care of indigents. Its management and finances are provided by the county board.³ Blind assistance is administered in the county through appropriations by the county board together with state funds. An examiner of the blind, appointed by the county board, examines all applicants referred to him by the county clerk.⁴ The county court has jurisdiction in the administration of the mothers' pension fund. A probation officer, an appointee of the court for this purpose, investigates and visits cases of indigent mothers who are entitled to benefit.⁵

Coordination of Functions

From the foregoing discussion of functions of the county government it is apparent that the county plays a dual role, that of a body politic and that of an agent of the state. In its first capacity the county, through its officials, is capable of suing and being sued, purchasing, holding, and selling property, making contracts, and raising revenue for its proper operation. As a state agent it fits into a state-wide program on various matters of public concern, acting under the supervision and control of the state and coordinating the activities of subcounty agencies and officials.

Coordination of county activities is effected chiefly through the county clerk. An illustration of this is the part this official plays in the election procedure. He notifies the judges and clerks of elections of their appointment, supplies them with blanks and poll books, receives copies of registers of voters, issues notices of election, receives and preserves returns, canvasses votes with the assistance of two justices of the peace and retains the abstracts, transmits copies of election re-

1. L.1937, p. 451,452.

2. L.1935-36, First Sp. Sess., p. 54-61,72; L.1937, p. 265-70,452.

3. L.1935, p. 1057,

4. L.1903, p. 138; L.1915, p. 256,257; L.1935, p. 264,265.

5. L.1913, p. 127-30; L.1915, p. 243-45; L.1921, p. 162-64; L.1935, p. 256-59,

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turns and abstracts of votes to the Secretary of State, and issues certificates of election.

Records System

County records in the State of Illinois have suffered from the lack of an adequate program of legislation designed to secure uniformity in recordation and to insure the proper care of those documents which have permanent value. However, from the inception of statehood, some effort has been made to coordinate the records systems of the several counties and to preserve their archives.

In attempting to establish state-wide uniformity among counties, the General Assembly has at times provided detailed descriptions of required records and in many instances has supplied the very forms to be used. Laws relating to the duties and powers of county officers usually contained some such provisions. Thus, in 1819, the recorder of the county was ordered to supply "parchment or good large books, of royal or other large paper, well bound and covered" wherein to record all deeds and conveyances brought to him for that purpose. He was also to keep a fair book in which to enter every deed or writing to be recorded, noting the date, the parties, and the place where the lands were situated, such entries to be made according to priority of time.¹ In 1833 he was required to keep an alphabetical index to each book,² and by 1874 the General Assembly had prescribed a complete list of books to be kept in the office of the recorder, with a description of the contents of each, which list has been continued, substantially unchanged, to the present.³

In like manner, legislation was enacted prescribing records to be kept by the county clerk and his predecessors, acting in their several capacities,⁴ the clerk of the circuit court,⁵ the judge⁶ and justice⁷ of the probate court, the coroner,⁸ the county superintendent of schools,⁹ the county surveyor,¹⁰ and the county treasurer.¹¹

1. L.1819, p. 18,20.

2. R.L.1833, p. 511.

3. R.S.1874, p. 834.

4. L.1849, p. 66,191,203; L.1859, p. 92,94; L.1865, p. 93; R.S.1874, p. 261-65,332; L.1933, p. 203,204.

5. R.L.1833, p. 152; R.S.1845, p. 147; L.1847, p. 70; L.1849, p. 9; L.1865, p. 93; R.S.1874, p. 262,263; L.1933, p. 293,294.

6. R.L.1829, p. 231.

7. R.S.1845, p. 427,428.

8. R.L.1833, p. 574; L.1869, p. 104,105; R.S.1874, p. 283.

9. L.1849, p. 155,156; L.1865, p. 119; L.1909, p. 346,348,349.

10. R.L.1829, p. 173; R.S.1845, p. 524.

11. R.S.1845, p. 138; R.S.1874, p. 323,324.

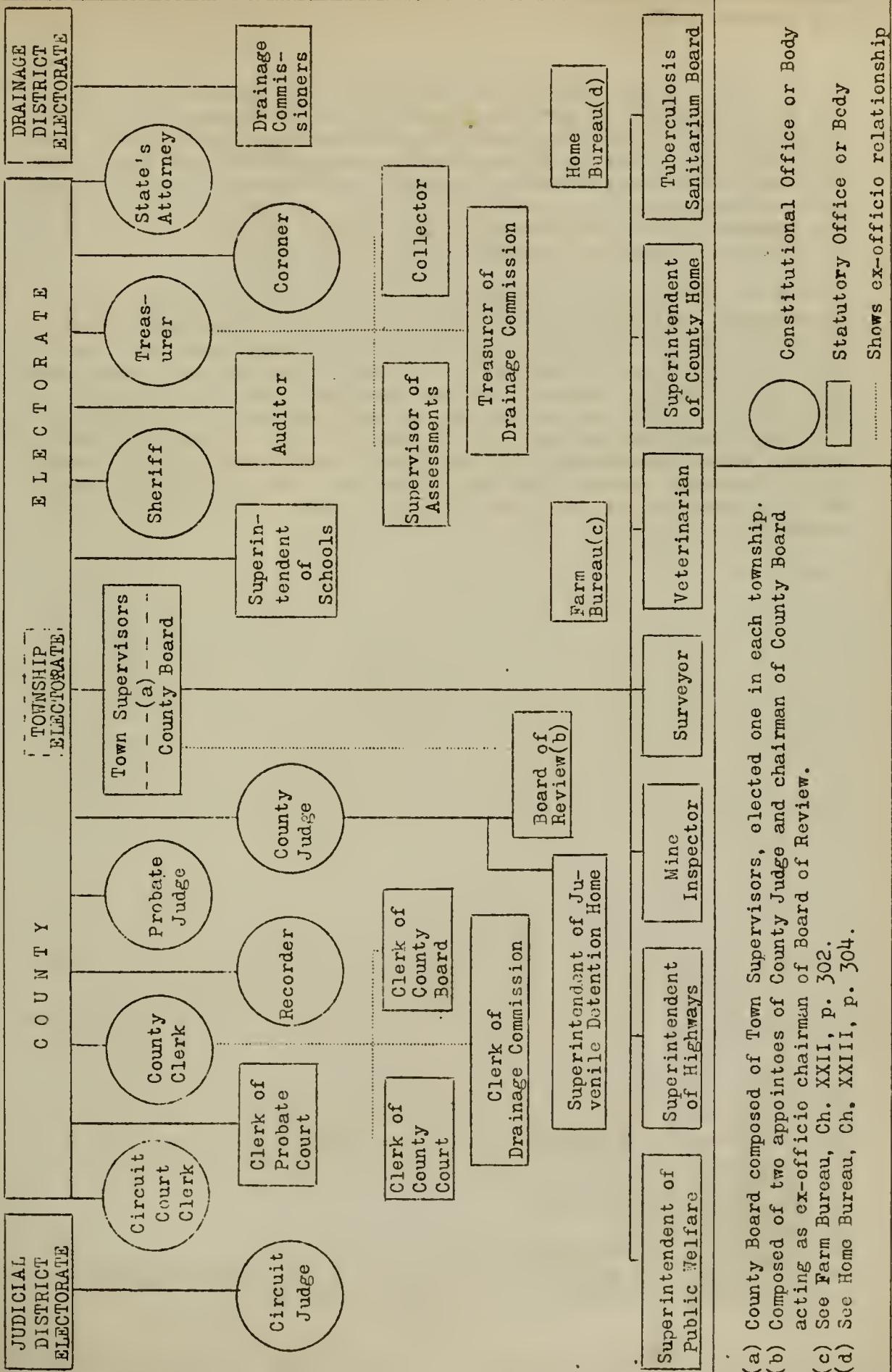
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Description of records and forms to be used are frequently found in legislation pertaining to the holding of elections,¹ assessments and the collection of revenue,² the organization and maintenance of common schools,³ the registration of marriages,⁴ and the recording of vital statistics.⁵

While there has been enacted much legislation prescribing the kind of records to be kept, only a few laws deal with the safeguarding and preservation of county archives. In 1819 the General Assembly directed the clerks of the circuit and county commissioners' courts to provide "a safe press or presses with locks and keys for the safe keeping of the archives of their offices . . ."⁶ In 1843 the county commissioners' courts were authorized, and required whenever the finances of the county would justify the expenditure, to erect a fireproof recorder's office at the county seat, or if the commissioners were of the opinion that any unappropriated room in their courthouses could be made fireproof, to make it so and house the office and records of the recorder there. At the discretion of the county commissioners' court, the provisions of this act might be deemed to apply to the offices of the clerks of the circuit and county commissioners' courts.⁷ Similar in content but slightly different in wording is a later enactment in which the county commissioners' courts were authorized to "erect, build, and provide permanent fireproof rooms, houses or vaults, for the purpose of placing therein and preserving from injury, damage, loss, or destruction by fire, the records and documents of their respective counties."⁸ The preservation of county archives has been greatly aided by an act to provide for the copying of old, worn-out records,⁹ and by a law authorizing the transfer of county records having historic value to the Illinois State Historical Library or to the State University Library at Urbana.¹⁰ Provision is made in this act for the substitution of accurate copies of these documents if such action be deemed necessary. In 1907 the act was amended to include among the institutions to which old records might be sent, any historical society incorporated and located

1. L.1819, p. 92,94; R.L.1827, p. 291,292; R.L.1829, p. 59,60; L.1845, p. 41,42; L.1849, p. 73,74; L.1865, p. 54,55; L.1871-72, p. 386-89, 391; L.1885, p. 143,148,173,176; L.1937, p. 522-29,531-48.
2. R.L.1827, p. 329-33; L.1838-39, p. 4,5,7,8,12,13,17; L.1845, p. 6-9, 12,14,15; L.1849, p. 37,38,124-26; L.1851, p. 53,55,56; L.1853, p. 17,24,50,55,77,78,111,112; L.1871-72, p. 19,23,32,48,49,54.
3. L.1825, p. 127; R.L.1833, p. 563; L.1841, p. 263,270-72; L.1845, p. 53,54,65,68; L.1847, p. 121-23,142-44; R.S.1874, p. 950,957,958,964.
4. L.1819, p. 27; R.L.1827, p. 288,289; R.S.1874, p. 694,695.
5. L.1842-43, p. 210-12; L.1877, p. 209; L.1901, p. 301-4; L.1903, p. 315,317,318; L.1915, p. 667.
6. L.1819, p. 332.
7. L.1842-43, p. 210.
8. L.1845, p. 46.
9. L.1871-72, p. 648.
10. L.1897, p. 205.

GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION OF VERMILION COUNTY, 1940



Governmental Organization
and Records System

within a particular county.¹ Laws have also been enacted which provide for the restoration of certain classes of records destroyed by fire or other means.² In 1935 the General Assembly appropriated money for the construction of a fireproof building at Springfield for the purpose of storing therein the archives and records of the state.³ The erection of this structure, the State Archives Building, has helped to make possible the inauguration of an intelligent, far-sighted program for the preservation of papers and documents of historic value.

There are still serious omissions in legislation pertaining to recordation. For instance, Illinois has no law prescribing the kinds of inks to be used in keeping records. And, although laws have been enacted authorizing the provision of fireproof accommodations for county documents, they are permissive rather than mandatory in character.⁴ Legislation enabling the destruction of worthless archives apparently is nonexistent with the exception of laws relating to certain election papers.⁵ The enactment of legislation which would remedy these defects in the laws and continue the trend toward state-wide uniformity among counties would result in an intelligent, economical records system for the State of Illinois.

1. L.1907, p. 375.

2. L.1871-72, p. 649,650,652.

3. L.1935, p. 138.

4. L.1842-43, p. 210; L.1875, p. 46.

5. L.1861, p. 269; L.1871-72, p. 389; L.1885, p. 145,193; L.1891, p. 118, 119; L.1917, p. 438,444,445; L.1937, p. 525,526.

3. ROSTER OF COUNTY OFFICERS*

(Date after name of officer refers to date of commission, unless otherwise stated)

County Commissioners**

(Subsequent to 1849, county commissioners were replaced by county judge and two associate justices until 1851 when the board of supervisors assumed administration of county business)

No state records 18261	Benjamin Canaday, James Farmer,
James Newell, John Light,	Steven Griffith, August 2, 1830
Steven Griffith, August 4, 18282	John Light, Charles Martin,
	Asa Elliott, August 6, 1832

* This list was compiled from the following sources with exceptions as noted:

- A. Secretary of State. Index Department, Election Returns. Returns from County Clerk to Secretary of State. 1809-47, 78 volumes (1-78), third tier, bay 1; 1848--, 53 file drawers (2-54), third tier, bay 2, State Archives Building, Springfield.
- B. Secretary of State. Executive Department, Certificates of Qualification. 1819--, 22 file drawers (1-22), fourth tier, bay 5, State Archives Building, Springfield.
- C. (1) Secretary of State. Executive Department Official Records. List of Commissions Issued to County Officers. 1809-1918, 5 volumes, fourth tier, bay 6, State Archives Building, Springfield.
- (2) Secretary of State. Executive Department Official Records. List of Commissions Issued to County Officers. 1869--, 4 volumes, room 208, second floor, Secretary of State's office, Executive Department, State Capitol Building, Springfield.

** All dates shown after commissioners' names indicate the year elected. By a law passed in 1837, the three commissioners elected in 1838 drew lots for one, two, and three years to determine their length of term. Thereafter, until 1849, one commissioner was to be regularly elected each year to serve a three-year term.

1. James Butler and Achilles Morgan presented certificates of election as commissioners at meeting March 6, 1826. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 1. John B. Alexander recorded as commissioner March 18, 1826. Ibid., p. 2. Achilles Morgan, Asa Elliott, and James McClure presented certificates of election at meeting September 4, 1826. Ibid., p. 19.
2. State records show John Light received second highest number of votes, James M. McClure the fourth highest; nevertheless, county records show James McClure, with James Newell and Stephen Griffith, as presenting certificates of election as commissioners at a meeting September 1, 1828. Ibid., p. 53.

Roster of County Officers

County Commissioners (cont.)

Charles Caraway, Jesse Gilbert,¹
James Durham, August 4, 1834
Henry Martin, Jesse Gilbert,
Charles Caraway, August 1, 1836
Samuel Partlow,² John Black,
Alexander Bailey, August 6, 1838³
John Black,
August 5, 1839
Isaac Sodowsky,
August 3, 1840
Milton Lesslie,⁴
August 2, 1841
John Black,
August 1, 1842

Isaac R. Moore,
August 7, 1843
Samuel Craig,
August 5, 1844
Elam Henderson,
August 4, 1845
Asa Duncan,
August 3, 1846
John W. Vance,
August 2, 1847
Elam Henderson,
August 7, 1848

County Judges

Guy Merrill,
December 6, 1849,
December 6, 1853
Norman D. Palmer,
November 11, 1857
Joseph Peters,
November 23, 1858,
November 18, 1860,
November 5, 1861
Robert B. Lemon,
January 19, 1863
Daniel Clapp,
November 17, 1865
Raymond W. Hanford (vice Clapp,
resigned),
November 17, 1868

R. W. Hanford,
November 12, 1869,
November 14, 1873,
December 1, 1877
David D. Evans,
December 1, 1882,
December 6, 1886
John G. Thompson,
November 26, 1890,
December 3, 1892,
November 6, 1894
Morton W. Thompson,
July 30, 1897,
November 30, 1898
S. Murry Clark,
September 16, 1902,
November 29, 1902

1. Jesse Gilbert presented certificate of election as commissioner, vice John Light, deceased, at meeting September 2, 1833; Thomas Durham, not James Durham, presented his certificate December 1. Supervisors' Record, v. B, p. 28,84.
2. Samuel Partlow presented certificate of election as commissioner, vice Thomas Durham, resigned, at a meeting September 7, 1835. Ibid., p. 115.
3. Alexander Bailey drew the three-year term, Samuel Partlow the two-year term, and Alexander Black the one-year term, at a meeting September 3, 1838. Ibid., p. 271.
4. Recorded as Milton Lesley, December 19, 1842. Ibid., v. C, p. 415.

Roster of County Officers

County Judges (cont.)

Fred Draper,	Thomas A. Graham,
December 30, 1905	November 21, 1918,
Isaac A. Love,	November 24, 1922
November 15, 1906	William T. Henderson (vice
Lawrence T. Allen,	Graham),
June 10, 1909,	April 11, 1925,
November 28, 1910,	November 26, 1926
November 23, 1914	Harlin M. Steely, Jr.,
	November 14, 1930,
	November 16, 1934

Associate Justices

No state records 18491

Judges of Probate,
Probate Justices of the Peace,
and Probate Judges

(In 1837 the probate justice takes the place of the judge of probate until 1849 when he is succeeded by the county judge as ex-officio judge of the probate court to 1910 when separate office of probate judge was established)

Amos Williams,	Walter J. Bookwalter,
January 23, 1826	November 16, 1914,
N. D. Palmer,	November 21, 1918,
September 11, 1837,	November 24, 1922,
August 17, 1839,	November 16, 1926,
August 28, 1843,	November 10, 1930 (voided
August 30, 1847	by court order,
Clinton Abernathy,	December 15, 1930)
November 16, 1910	Ralph M. Jenkins,
	December 16, 1930 (ordered
	elected by court),
	November 15, 1934
	Arthur R. Hall ²

1. Josiah Alexander and Elam Henderson presented certificates of election as associate justices at meeting, December 17, 1849. Supervisors' Record, v. D, p. 1.
2. Shown as probate judge in Official List of State and County Officers July 1, 1939, compiled by Edward J. Hughes, Secretary of State, p. 49.

Roster of County Officers

County Board of Supervisors

The several township supervisors, one elected from each township, together with any additional and assistant supervisors elected upon proportional representation, make up the membership of the county board of supervisors. Because these supervisors, severally, are township officials and only as a group constitute the county board, they are not commissioned by the state as county officers, and no data concerning them, from which a list could be compiled, are kept by the state. For the same reason, county records, too, are inadequate for the compilation of a complete and accurate list of supervisors. Therefore, due to these and other limitations, only those members mentioned in county records in connection with the first recorded meeting of the board of supervisors are included in this roster.

At the general election held in November, 1850, the electorate voted in favor of township organization,¹ and at a meeting of the county court December 6, 1850, Alvan Gilbert, Hamilton White, and John Canaday were appointed commissioners to divide the county into townships.² Their report, filed with the clerk, named and bounded the following townships:

Elwood	Union (Vance)	North Fork (Ross)
Georgetown	Richland (Newell)	Middle Fork
Carroll	Pilot	Trickels Grove ³
Danville		

The first meeting of the board of supervisors was held June 13, 1851. Those present were as follows, but no record of township each represented is shown:⁴

1. For township organization 784, against 296. Supervisors' Record, v. D, p. 66.
2. Ibid., p. 73.
3. "Trickels Grove Township did not organize therefore . . . Said Trickels Grove Township . . . is hereby attached to the town of Middle Fork . . ." From record of meeting of board of supervisors, June 13, 1851. Ibid., p. 106. While ten townships were formed, only nine organized and were represented at the first meeting. Today there are nineteen townships, ten being formed since: Blount, Butler, Carroll, Catlin, Danville, Elwood, Georgetown, Grant, Jamaica, Love, McKendree, Middlefork, Newell, Oakwood, Pilot, Ross, Sidell, South Ross, Vance. Population Bulletin, p. 34.
4. Supervisors' Record, v. D, p. 101.

Roster of County Officers

County Board of Supervisors (cont.)

William P. Davis	John Canaday
William Spicer	Asa Duncan
Lawrence T. Catlett	John Hoobler
Samuel Partlow	Michael Oakwood
James A. D. Sconce	

James A. D. Sconce was appointed chairman for one year.

County Clerks
(Clerks of the county commissioners' court,
county court, and board of supervisors)

No state records 1826-18381	Walter C. Tuttle,
Amos Williams,	December 6, 1886,
August 5, 1839	November 26, 1890
Thomas Short,	Thomas J. Dale,
August 7, 1843,	November 28, 1892,
August 3, 1847,	November 6, 1894,
December 6, 1849,	December 2, 1898,
December 6, 1853	November 21, 1902,
John C. Short,	November 11, 1906,
November 11, 1857,	November 28, 1910
November 12, 1861,	John R. Moore,
November 17, 1865	November 27, 1914,
John W. Dale,	November 21, 1918,
November 12, 1869,	November 24, 1922,
November 14, 1873,	November 16, 1926,
December 1, 1877	November 26, 1930
Edwin Winter,	V. M. Jones,
December 1, 1882	November 30, 1934
	Dan A. Miller ²

Probate Clerks

Harry L. Freeman,	Charles F. Quast (vice
November 28, 1910,	Freeman),
November 23, 1914	January 29, 1917

1. Amos Williams appointed clerk, March 6, 1826 (Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 1) and served continuously until the election of his successor, August 7, 1843.
2. Shown as county clerk in Official List of State and County Officers of Illinois July 1, 1939, p. 49.

Roster of County Officers

Probate Clerks (cont.)

Thomas J. Dale,
November 21, 1918
Charles F. Quast,
November 24, 1922,
November 16, 1926

Mabel Redden,
November 26, 1930
Robert N. Edwards,
November 21, 1934

Recorders

(In 1849 the circuit clerk became ex-officio
recorder to 1900 when a separate office
of recorder was again established)

Amos Williams,
January 23, 1826,
August 24, 1835,
August 17, 1839
Josiah Alexander,
August 17, 1843,
August 9, 1847
W. H. Carter,
November 30, 1900,
November 22, 1904,

November 23, 1908,
November 25, 1912,
November 25, 1916,
November 24, 1920,
November 24, 1924,
November 21, 1928
Josephine Ray,
November 19, 1932,
November 27, 1936

Circuit Court Clerks

(Prior to 1848, circuit clerk appointed by circuit judge)

John Canaday,
September 4, 1848 (elected)
Samuel G. Craig,
February 5, 1849,
December 3, 1852,
November 14, 1856
Elijah A. McKee,
November 26, 1860,
November 18, 1864
George Dillon,
November 17, 1868,
November 20, 1872,
November 27, 1876
Albert S. W. Hawes,
December 1, 1880,
November 25, 1884
Martin J. Barger,
December 3, 1888,
November 25, 1892,

December 7, 1896,
November 30, 1900
John W. Barger,
December 26, 1901
(pro tem),
November 11, 1902,
November 18, 1904
Ben G. Siebert,
November 14, 1908,
November 25, 1912
C. E. Wellman,
November 27, 1916,
November 30, 1920,
November 24, 1924,
November 27, 1928
Oscar E. Moreland,
November 19, 1932
Orville E. Minnicar,
November 28, 1936

Roster of County Officers

Sheriffs

(Treasurer to 1827; collectors to 1839 and 1844 to 1851)

William Reed,	Anthony T. Learch,
April 18, 1826,	November 17, 1868
December 7, 1826,	John W. Mires,
September 3, 1828,	November 12, 1870,
August 12, 1830,	November 20, 1872
September 5, 1832	Edward L. Gregory,
Samuel Dunn,	November 17, 1874,
February 24, 1834 (to fill vacancy),	November 27, 1876
August 25, 1834	Dayton C. Morehouse,
Thomas McKibben,	December 2, 1878,
August 1, 1836	December 1, 1880
Milton Lesley,	Walter C. Tuttle,
September 30, 1838	December 1, 1882
Samuel Frazier,	Joseph C. Grundy,
August 12, 1840	December 6, 1886
Samuel Frazier, Jr.,	John W. Newlon,
August 25, 1842	November 26, 1890
Samuel Frazier,	William C. Thompson,
August 26, 1844	November 20, 1894
Hiram Hickman,	James Sloan,
August 13, 1846,	November 30, 1898
September 1, 1848	Hardy H. Whitlock,
Samuel Frazier,	November 11, 1902
November 20, 1850	William S. Helmick,
John M. Partlow,	November 22, 1906
December 3, 1852	John T. Shepard,
James Probst,	November 28, 1910
November 14, 1854	D. G. Williams,
Thomas McKibben,	November 23, 1914
November 11, 1856	Charles N. Knox,
John W. Parker,	November 21, 1918
November 20, 1858	Wm. C. Timm,
James Probst,	November 24, 1922
November 26, 1860	M. B. Grimes,
William M. Payne,	November 16, 1926
November 20, 1862	F. W. Ward,
Joseph M. Payton,	November 22, 1930
November 18, 1864	Harry C. George,
Lines L. Parker,	November 27, 1934
November 20, 1866	F. W. Wardl

1. Shown as sheriff in Official List of State and County Officers July 1, 1939, p. 49.

Roster of County Officers

Coroners

James Ticknor,	November 12, 1870,
April 18, 1826,	November 20, 1872
September 28, 1826,	Hezekiah Cunningham,
September 3, 1828	November 19, 1874,
George Ware,	November 27, 1876
August 12, 1830	John W. Mires,
Jesse Gilbert,	December 21, 1878
September 5, 1832	John W. Parker,
Michael Stanley,	December 1, 1880,
February 4, 1834 (to fill vacancy)	December 1, 1882,
Charles S. Galusha,	December 1, 1884
August 18, 1834	Ephraim Burroughs,
John Jones,	December 3, 1888
August 1, 1836	Buford Saylor,
David Rowland,	November 25, 1892
August 23, 1838	Samuel Stansberry,
John Payne,	December 7, 1896
August 12, 1840	R. H. Johnson,
Thomas O'Neal,	November 30, 1900
August 8, 1842,	W. P. Speakman,
August 17, 1844,	November 16, 1904
August 19, 1844,	William Morris (vice Speakman,
August 28, 1846,	deceased),
August 23, 1848,	December 13, 1907
November 20, 1850	Ralph M. Cole,
Joseph B. Lemon,	November 21, 1908,
December 3, 1852	November 25, 1912,
John P. Draper,	November 27, 1916
November 14, 1854	John D. Cole,
Thomas O'Neal,	November 24, 1920,
November 11, 1856,	November 24, 1924,
November 20, 1858,	November 21, 1928
November 26, 1860	Harry C. George,
James F. Hartness,	November 17, 1932
November 20, 1862	H. G. Lanham (vice George),
Martin Lafferty,	January 10, 1935
November 18, 1864,	Oscar L. Graham,
November 20, 1866	November 27, 1936
Samuel Partlow,	
November 17, 1868,	

Roster of County Officers

State's Attorneys

(Appointed by the Governor to 1835, by the General Assembly to 1849; elected by circuit district electorate to 1872)

Peter Walsh,
November 20, 1872
Joseph W. Jones,
November 27, 1876
James A. Autland,
November 24, 1880
Charles M. Swallow (vice
Autland, deceased),
April 19, 1881
Wm. J. Calhoun,
November 25, 1884
John G. Thompson (vice
Calhoun, resigned),
March 20, 1888
H. P. Blackburn,
December 3, 1888

S. G. Wilson,
November 25, 1892,
December 7, 1896
John W. Keeslar,
November 30, 1900,
November 22, 1904
John H. Lewman,
November 23, 1908,
November 24, 1912,
November 27, 1916,
November 24, 1920
Elmer O. Furrow,
November 22, 1924,
November 21, 1928
Oliver D. Mann,
November 22, 1932,
November 27, 1936

Treasurers

(Also acted as assessors to 1839, 1844 to 1851;
supervisors of assessments 1898 to date;
and collectors 1851 to date)

No state records 1827-1838
Josiah Alexander,
August 5, 1839 (elected)
John H. Sconze,
August 7, 1843
Alex McDonald,
August 2, 1847
William J. Allen,
November 6, 1849

John W. Mires,
November 4, 1851
Samuel Patton,²
November 8, 1853
Samuel Partlow,
November 6, 1855
James Probst,
November 11, 1857

1. Dan W. Beckwith appointed treasurer March 26, 1827, Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 22; reappointed March 4, 1828, *ibid.*, p. 46. Josiah Alexander appointed treasurer March 4, 1829, *ibid.*, p. 80; reappointed March 3, 1830, *ibid.*, p. 132. George M. Beckwith appointed treasurer March 9, 1831, *ibid.*, p. 181. Josiah Alexander appointed treasurer April 7, 1831, vice Beckwith, resigned, *ibid.*, p. 186, and served continuously until the election of his successor in August, 1843.
2. Samuel Partlow recorded as treasurer November 28, 1853. Supervisors' Record, v. D, p. 196.

Roster of County Officers

Treasurers (cont.)

John Woods, Jr.,	John W. Newton,
November 16, 1859,	November 28, 1894
November 5, 1861 (elected)	William C. Thompson,
Rawley M. Martin,	November 30, 1898
December 7, 1863,	O. L. McCord,
November 17, 1865	Hardy H. Whitlock,
F. M. Allhand,	November 22, 1906
December 10, 1867,	O. B. Wysong,
November 12, 1869,	November 30, 1910
November 20, 1871,	Thomas J. Dale,
November 14, 1873	November 23, 1914
Francis M. Allhands,	Robert Howard Mater,
November 16, 1875	November 30, 1918
Edward W. Eakin,	G. Stanley Olmsted,
December 1, 1877,	November 24, 1922
December 1, 1879	Fred L. Endicott,
William D. Lindsey,	November 16, 1926
December 1, 1882	Fred R. Lloyd,
Daniel C. Deamunde,	November 20, 1930
December 6, 1886	F. W. Ward,
Thomas J. Dale,	December 1, 1934
December 2, 1890	William E. Wayland

Auditors

Pat McDonald,	November 2, 1920 (elected),
November 5, 1912	November 4, 1924 "
Chauncey E. Lewis,	November 6, 1928 "
November 7, 1916 (elected)	Ray C. Wait,
L. H. Griffith,	November 8, 1932 (elected),
November 5, 1918 (elected),	November 3, 1936 "

1. Shown as treasurer in Official List of State and County Officers
July 1, 1939, p. 49.

Roster of County Officers

Superintendents of Schools
(School commissioners 1829 to 1865)

No state records 1829-1841

December 1, 1877
John D. Benedict,
December 16, 1881 (appointed),
December 1, 1882,
December 6, 1886
L. H. Griffith (vice Benedict,
resigned),
July 15, 1889
Lin H. Griffith,
November 26, 1890,
November 28, 1894,
November 30, 1898
Ralph B. Holmes (vice Griffith,
resigned),
September 13, 1899,
November 27, 1900,
November 21, 1902
William L. Ludwig,
November 19, 1906
Otis R. Haworth,
November 28, 1910,
November 23, 1914,
November 21, 1918
Larkin A. Tuggle,
November 14, 1922,
November 16, 1926,
June 15, 1931,
November 27, 1934

1. James Clyman appointed commissioner for the sale of school sections, June 7, 1831. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 202. Dan W. Beckwith appointed commissioner for the sale of school lands in the place of Clyman, who refused to act. Ibid., p. 245. John H. Murphy appointed commissioner and agent for the sale of school sections, in the place of Beckwith, resigned, September 11, 1832 (ibid., p. 280) and served continuously until his resignation June 8, 1841. Ibid., v. B, p. 399. Records do not show office was filled until Norman D. Palmer presented his certificate of election at a meeting, December 19, 1841. Ibid., p. 415.

Roster of County Officers

Surveyors

(Beginning September, 1936, surveyor appointed
by county board of supervisors)

Dan W. Beckwith, January 23, 1826	Asa H. Guy, November 16, 1875
Owen West, August 24, 1835, August 17, 1839	Alexander Bowman, December 1, 1879, December 1, 1884, December 3, 1888
Guy Merrill, August 17, 1843, August 9, 1847	Charles E. Ellsworth, November 25, 1892, December 7, 1896, November 30, 1900
Owen West, December 6, 1849, November 13, 1851, December 6, 1853	Eugene S. Bonidnot, June 1, 1903 (appointed vice Ellsworth, deceased), November 8, 1904 (elected)
Asa H. Guy, November 20, 1855, November 11, 1857	Frank Payne (vice Bonidnot, resigned), No date
John B. Lee, November 16, 1859	William S. Dillon, November 3, 1908, November 5, 1912, November 7, 1916, November 2, 1920, November 4, 1924, November 6, 1928
William H. Blair, November 18, 1861	Russel Glick, November 17, 1932
Asa H. Guy, December 7, 1863, November 17, 1865	Walter G. Dye, November 27, 1936
Alexander Bowman, December 10, 1867	
Asa H. Guy, November 12, 1869	
Alexander Bowman, November 20, 1871	

4. HOUSING, CARE, AND ACCESSIBILITY OF THE RECORDS

In 1829, three years after Vermilion County had been created, a residence was purchased to serve as a temporary courthouse. The first permanent courthouse, erected in Danville, the county seat,¹ was accepted in 1836. An old bank building was acquired in 1843 and was used for six years as an addition to the courthouse. A fireproof building to house the offices of the county and circuit clerks was erected in 1855. But not until 1877, when the second courthouse was first used, did all county offices function under one roof. Today, the third courthouse stands on the site of the first two, at the northeast corner of the public square, abutting on North Vermilion and East Main streets.

After Vermilion became a county in January, 1826, the county commissioners' court, the first administrative body, met successively at the home of James Butler from March 6, 1826 to March 26, 1827; at Asa Elliot's house during the June term of 1827; at Amos Williams' from September, 1827 through September, 1828; and in George Haworth's house from December, 1828 through September, 1829.² However, on September 2, 1828, the commissioners' court made provision to accept proposals, at their December term, for the building of a courthouse.³ No proposals were forthcoming at the specified time, therefore, as an alternative, the commissioners ordered the purchase of a house from William Reed for \$200 in specie.⁴ In this provisional courthouse the county board met from December, 1829 to March 10, 1831, when the structure was sold for \$350 to Hezekiah Cunningham.⁵

The problem of acquiring a permanent courthouse met with some difficulties for, prior to the sale of the provisional one to Cunningham, the commissioners' court contracted with Joseph Wiley in December, 1830 for the making of bricks for a courthouse at \$3.25 per thousand and advanced him \$162.50 which sum, however, was returned by John Murphy, Wiley's security, in November, 1831.⁶ Nothing thereon was accomplished until July 7, 1832, when the court ordered a courthouse built on the northeast

1. For the history of the selection of Danville as the county seat of justice, see Historical Sketch, p. 56,59-62.
2. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 1,3,5,12,14,15,21,24,35,38,39,47,52,61, 68,83,89,92.
3. Ibid., p. 60.
4. Ibid., p. 67.
5. Ibid., p. 182. Payments were to be made in six, twelve, and eighteen months, and as a further provision, Cunningham was to furnish a courtroom for the term of two years unless a new courthouse was built meanwhile.
6. Ibid., p. 157,219.

Housing, Care, and Accessibility of the Records

corner of the public square and appointed John Murphy to carry into effect the contracts of the court, vesting him with full power to enter into written agreements as might be necessary.¹ As the court-house was being built on a pay-as-you-go basis, the work was carried on with interruptions until the summer of 1836. On July 20 of that year the county commissioners' court formally accepted the completed building.²

This first courthouse was a two-story, square building built of brick and stone, and surmounted by a bell tower. The circuit court was located in the lower story. On the second floor there were four rooms given most of the time to the use of various nonofficial tenants. The total cost of this building was in excess of \$6,500.³ The commissioners' court did not, however, meet in the courthouse at any time, its meetings being held from October, 1831 to June, 1843 in the home of Amos Williams.⁴ On May 31 of the latter year the county purchased a building in Danville, formerly occupied by a bank, for \$1,822.28.⁵ Rooms were prepared in it for the recorder and the county clerk.⁶ The county commissioners' court held its meetings in the county clerk's office for the next six years, from October 21, 1843 to December, 1849.⁷

The county court, as the county board, organized and held its first meeting in the courthouse on December 17, 1849.⁸ The old bank building was ordered sold April 8, 1850.⁹ It is not clear from the records where the offices of the recorder and county clerk were located during the next few years. They may have remained in the old bank building during the years from 1850 to 1853, for though it was sold at public auction to John Pearson for \$805 in September, 1851, he refused to abide by his bargain and not until 1853 was it sold to James Farmer.¹⁰

The problem of housing the offices and records of county officers approached a final solution on February 13, 1855, when the board of supervisors adopted a resolution to build a fireproof office building.¹¹

1. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 260,263.

2. Ibid., v. B, p. 165.

3. Ibid., v. A, p. 262,266,268,279,284,298,315; v. B, p. 8,11,31,34,38,39,43,67,71,75,149,165,188,216,229,258. Records reveal that many expensive repairs and alterations were made on this courthouse between 1839 and 1859, amounting to \$1,770.72 (ibid., v. B, p. 311; v. D, p. 33,37,39,47,50,51,56,57,155,185,205,431,435,449).

4. Ibid., v. A, p. 218; v. B, p. 515.

5. Ibid., v. B, p. 514,546; v. C, p. 62.

6. Ibid., v. C, p. 188,205.

7. Ibid., p. 514; v. D, p. 72.

8. Ibid., v. D, p. 1.

9. Ibid., p. 27.

10. Ibid., p. 112,116,117,123,128,183.

11. Ibid., p. 235.

Housing, Care, and Accessibility of the Records

Three months later, contracts were awarded to Mires and Gabrill for the sum of \$4,200.¹ This building was located on the southeast corner of the public square. It was one story high, 25 by 60 feet, built of brick, and covered with zinc sheeting. The roof was of galvanized iron. The county clerk's office occupied a space 20 by 30 feet, and the circuit clerk had an office 20 by 20 feet, an 8-foot hall separating the two rooms.² The total cost of this building, which was accepted by the county board and paid for in full by November 9, 1855, was \$4,390.85.³

By 1857, the rooms which the board used for its business were no longer suitable. The recommendations which had been submitted June 9, 1857, by the grand jury for alterations in the courthouse, were not acted upon,⁴ but on March 15, 1859, the sheriff was ordered to rent two rooms in the upper story at \$5.00 per month and to charge \$2.50 a month for use of any part of the county judge's room. The meetings of the board of supervisors were transferred to the county clerk's office.⁵

From the creation of Vermilion in 1826 to the close of 1849, the county administrative bodies had held their meetings in various places, only the courts of justice occupying the buildings which the county had designated as courthouses. By 1875, the need became acute to have all county offices housed in one substantial building - one that would reflect the increased wealth of the county. On June 9, 1875, therefore, the board of supervisors appointed a committee to visit and study other courthouses in the state.⁶ After the report of the committee was received on December 16,⁷ the board proceeded to order a new courthouse built at a cost not to exceed \$80,000, the plans submitted by the architect, Elijah Meyers, having been adopted.⁸ Two months later, on February 17, 1876, contracts were let to N. C. Terrell,⁹ and on June 21, the cornerstone was laid.¹⁰ Near the close of 1877 the courthouse was completed and on December 10, the first meeting of the board of supervisors was held in it. The following day the building was opened to public inspection.¹¹

The cost of this second courthouse, including approximately \$5,000 for furniture and \$8,000 for architect's fees and building supervision,

1. Supervisors' Record, v. D, p. 250.
2. Ibid., p. 245,246.
3. Ibid., p. 256,262.
4. Ibid., p. 328.
5. Ibid., p. 442,449.
6. Ibid., v. F. p. 395.
7. Ibid., p. 465-70.
8. Ibid., p. 473.
9. Ibid., p. 485.
10. Ibid., p. 521.
11. Ibid., v. G, p. 25,31.

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was \$104,550.50.¹ It was built on the site of the old one, an L-shaped building erected outside the northeast corner of, but facing, the public square. The structure was an imposing one, three stories high, built of brick, stone, and iron; it had three entrances, one at the center and one each at North Vermilion and East Main streets. The style of architecture was typical of American buildings of the latter part of the nineteenth century, exemplifying French adaption of Roman principles. Besides the offices and courtrooms there were also two small fireproof vaults and one large one. Obviously, this courthouse was built with an eye toward future expansion rather than for immediate utilization of all space as sections of the building were rented for use by the United States Post Office, the Vermilion County Bank, and by various business firms.²

In the autumn of 1910, the board of supervisors decided to remodel the courthouse and appointed a committee to secure plans and estimates for this work.³ On November 2, of that year, the courthouse committee, after submitting several plans and estimates, was instructed to call for bids according to the plans and specifications of architects Lewison and Stuebe.⁴

On March 15, 1911, M. Yaeger and Son, of Danville, were awarded the masonry and carpentry contract for the sum of \$188,527;⁵ contracts for heating and plumbing, electrical work, and installation of elevators were let March 13, 1912;⁶ electrical fixtures, painting and decorating, and floor covering were contracted for on June 11, 1913.⁷ The entire cost of remodeling was in excess of a quarter of a million dollars. While construction work was going on, the county leased the old post office building, at Harrison and Vermilion streets, as a temporary courthouse.⁸

The remodeled building was accepted by the county board as completed on December 11, 1913.⁹ As it stands today, the courthouse carries out the general L-shaped outline of the previous building but now has five

1. Supervisors' Record, v. G, p. 53. This courthouse cost approximately \$23,550 more than had been originally estimated. To finance the greater part of the cost of construction a bond issue of \$75,000 was floated after having been approved at a general election in 1876. (*ibid.*, v. F, p. 507). In 1877 a courthouse tax of twenty-five cents on every one hundred dollars of taxable property for ten years was approved by the electorate. (*ibid.*, v. G, p. 20).
2. *Ibid.*, v. G, p. 37.
3. *Ibid.*, v. P, p. 71,81.
4. *Ibid.*, p. 99.
5. *Ibid.*, p. 162.
6. *Ibid.*, p. 325.
7. *Ibid.*, p. 543,583.
8. *Ibid.*, p. 81,228.
9. *Ibid.*, v. Q, p. 62.

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stories. Classic as to architectural design and comparable to Federal governmental buildings in the Nation's capital, this third courthouse is built of brick and faced with stone. Above the three entrances are small stone balconies; three-story high pilasters, with Ionic capitals, enhance the beauty of the upper two thirds of the building. Topping the cornice line, on the flat roof, is a decorative stone balustrade which contributes a distinctive finish to the impressive appearance of this outstanding structure.

The interior is well arranged both from the standpoint of convenience and efficient use of existing space. The main or center entrance, at the juncture of the two arms of the building, opens on a large lobby from which corridors lead to the various offices. These corridors also open on the two other entrances at East Main and North Vermilion streets. Above the lobby is a light-well which is topped at the roofline on the fifth floor by a skylight. On the first floor are contained the offices of the sheriff, coroner, treasurer, and election commissioners. Here also are a jury room and a room used by war veterans, as well as a men's lavatory; a janitor's room; a dormitory, restroom and lavatory for ladies, and a matron's room. A stairway and elevator at the north end lead to the upper floors. On the second floor are the recorder's office and vault, the state's attorney's suite, a men's lavatory, a room for Boy Scouts, the suite of the master in chancery, the probate courtroom, judge's chambers, jury room and library, and the probate clerk's offices and vault. The third floor contains the auditor's suite; board of supervisors' room; suite of the superintendent of schools and an adjacent storeroom; a ladies' lavatory; the office of the superintendent of highways, which is shared also by the surveyor; the workroom of the superintendent of highways; the old age assistance office, which is also called the county judge's office; the county courtroom; judge's chambers; library and jury room; and the county clerk's offices and vault. The fourth floor contains the circuit courtroom, which is located on the south end of the building, and a reserve courtroom on the west end. These courtrooms are two stories in height and have roomy balconies which may be reached from the fifth floor level. Other rooms located on the fourth floor are the circuit judge's office; a room for the court reporter; the circuit clerk's office, record room, workroom, and vault; two libraries; a jury room; and a consultation room. The fifth floor contains the offices of the home bureau, the probation officer, a blueprint room, and the common vault. In addition, there are also a dormitory, a witness room, consultation room, and a grand jury room. (For detailed floor plans of courthouse, see pages 154-58.)

Besides the offices and depositories listed as being in the courthouse, there is the county jail, 38 South Vermilion Street, where the sheriff has an office; the Vermilion county home, 3 miles southwest of Danville, on Catlin Road; the farm bureau which has its offices on the second floor of the Chamber of Commerce Building, 101 West North Street; the juvenile detention home, commonly called the Vermilion County Placement Home, Rural Route 4, three-and-a-half miles southwest of Danville, which was first opened January 14, 1938, in a colonial

Housing, Care, and Accessibility of the Records

type building that had been formerly used by the county tuberculosis dispensary; and the home of the county mine inspector, Charles Blakney, Rural Route 6, Westville, where his records are kept. Besides the above, and deserving of special mention, is the Vermilion County Tuberculosis Dispensary, 808 North Logan Avenue, Danville. The dispensary has a ward with two beds in it. However, the county is building a large, two-story-high, sixty-room hospital around the dispensary, but separate from it. When completed, early in the summer of 1940, it will have cost over ninety thousand dollars.

The distribution of records in offices and vaults in the Vermilion County courthouse indicates that only comparatively recent records are housed in the individual offices, the reason being the obvious one that these are the ones most consulted. About 89 percent of record volumes and 83 per cent of the miscellaneous records are stored in the various vaults. File boxes being more flexible in their use and more compact, a slightly smaller amount, 67 per cent of these, are stored in the vaults. (For allocation of records in the depositories, according to offices, as well as percentages of records stored therein, see charts on pages 145-47; for detailed information on the individual depositories, with a description of facilities for the housing of records, see charts on pages 148-53.)

Provisions for careful housing and maintenance of records, with a view toward their best preservation, have been carried out in practically every instance. Binding and repair of record volumes are under direct supervision of the county board. Indexing and filing of records follow systems generally adopted and employed in other counties in Illinois.

CHART OF COUNTY OFFICES SHOWING PERCENTAGE OF RECORDS IN DEPOSITORYES

Office	Volumes	File Boxes	Miscellaneous	Depository and Percent of Records*
County Board	69	199	6 Bdl. 47 Pamphlets	Co. clk.'s vlt. 100%; co. clk.'s off.; com. vlt.; treas.'s vlt.; off. of probation officer
County Clerk	2412	195	39 Bdl. 56 Pamphlets	Co. clk.'s vlt. 15; co. clk.'s off. 4; com. vlt. 65%; treas.'s off.; treas.'s vlt. 11; rec.'s off.; supervisors' rm. 5
Recorder	1420	105	-----	Rec.'s vlt. 100%; rec.'s off.; com. vlt.; co. clk.'s vlt.; cir. clk.'s vlt.
County Court	252	455	3 Bdl. 7 Wood Boxes 20 Pamphlets	Co. clk.'s vlt. 75; co. clk.'s off. 9; pro. clk.'s off. 2; com. vlt. 13; off. of probation officer 1
Probate Court	553	662	-----	Pro. clk.'s vlt. 93; com. vlt. 7
Circuit Court	631	2176	96 Bdl.	Cir. clk.'s vlt. 92; cir. clk.'s off. 2-; cir. clk.'s record rm. 6; cir. clk.'s private off.
Sheriff	54	32	-----	Sh.'s off. co. jail 26; sh.'s private off. 4; com. vlt. 70

* Minus sign after percentage figure shown indicates a deficiency of less than one half of one percent; for fractional listing of records, depositories only are listed.

CHART OF COUNTY OFFICES SHOWING PERCENTAGE OF RECORDS IN DEPOSITORYIES

Office	Volumes	File Boxes	Miscellaneous	Depository and Percent of Records*
Coroner	20	68	1 Bdl.	Cor.'s off. 50; cor.'s strm. 35; com. vlt. 14; cir. clk.'s record rm. 1
State's Attorney	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	State's attorney keeps no records; his reports to circuit court are in cir. clk.'s record rm. 4th fl.
Supervisor of Assessments	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	Supervisor of assessments keeps no records; his tax papers are in treas.'s vlt. 1st fl.
Board of Review	9	7	- - - - -	Supervisors' rm. 70; com. vlt. 20; treas.'s vlt. 10
Collector	132	139	66 Bdl.	Treas.'s off. 8; treas.'s vlt. 22; com. vlt. 68-; co. clk.'s vlt. 2
Treasurer	68	82	- - - - -	Treas.'s vlt. 30; treas.'s off. 13; com. vlt. 57
Auditor	23	145	- - - - -	Aud.'s front off. 34; aud.'s rear off. 24; com. vlt. 42
Superintendent of Schools	127	96	12 Bdl.	Off. of supt. of sch. 85; strm. of supt. 15

*Minus sign after percentage figure shown indicates a deficiency of less than one half of one percent; for fractional listing of records, depositories only are listed.

CHART OF COUNTY OFFICES SHOWING PERCENTAGE OF RECORDS IN DEPOSITORYIES

Office	Volumes	File Boxes	Miscellaneous	Depository and Percent of Records*
Superintendent of Highways	193	92	31 Bdl.	Off. of supt. of hwy. 68; vlt. of supt. 5; work rm. of supt. 27
Surveyor	7	1	65 Bdl.	Vlt. of supt. of hwy. 90; off. of supt. 10
Drainage Commissioners	4	26	-----	Co. clk.'s vlt. 90; rec.'s vlt. 10
Department of Public Welfare	1	23	-----	Off. of co. judge 100
County Home	4	1	-----	Off. of supt. of co. home 100
Tuberculosis Sanitarium Board	3	15	3 Crates	Tuberculosis dispensary off. 95; dispensary meeting rm. 5
Farm Bureau	4	4	-----	Farm bureau off. 100
Home Bureau	6	3	-----	Home bureau off. 100
Juvenile Detention Home	1	-----	-----	Off. of supt. of juvenile detention home, R.R. 4, Danville 100
Veterinarian	-----	-----	-----	Veterinarian keeps no records
Mine Inspector	-----	-----	1 Bdl.	Home of mine inspector 1st fl., R.R. 6, Westville 100

* Minus sign after percentage figure shown indicates a deficiency of less than one half of one percent; for fractional listing of records, depositories only are listed.

CHART OF DEPOSITORYIES, SHOWING LOCATION, CONTENTS, AND CONDITION

Vermilion County Courthouse, North Vermilion and East Main Streets, at Public Square, Danville
(Five stories; brick, stone, and concrete construction; 1,328,040 cubic feet)

Depository	Floor Location	Dimensions	Floors	Walls & Ceiling	Light & Ventilation	Accommodations	Shelving	Quantity			Records	
								Type	Feet	Vols.	Miscel-laneous	Housing and Accessi-bility
Co. Clk.'s Off.	3rd S.W.	12x17x25	Cement	Plaster	Electric 4 Windows	Counter 2 Desks	Steel 119	132	2 f.b.	2 Pamphlets	Good	
Co. Clk.'s Vlt.	3rd S.W.	12x25x26	Cement	Plaster	Electric 4 Windows	Tables 2 Chairs	Steel 770	531	772 f.b.	6 Bdl. 115 Pamphlets	20% more equipment needed	
Rec.'s Off.	2nd S.W.	12x17x21	Cement	Plaster	Electric 2 Windows	Tables 1 Desk	Steel 1500	1418	103 f.b.	1	Equipment needed	
Rec.'s Vlt.	2nd S.W.	12x25x34	Cement	Plaster	Electric 2 Windows	Tables 5 Chairs	Steel 1500	1418	103 f.b.	1	---	
Pro. Clk.'s Off.	2nd N.W.	12x17x25	Cement	Plaster	Electric 1 Window	Counter 2 Desks	Steel 7	Steel Cabinet	---	---	Good	
Pro. Clk.'s Vlt.	2nd S.W.	12x25x27	Cement	Plaster	Electric 2 Windows	Tables 3 Chairs	Steel 90	511	662 f.b.	---	Good	
Cir. Clk.'s Priv. Off.	4th N.E.	12x14x18	Cement	Plaster	Electric 2 Windows	Desks 2 Chairs	---	---	12 f.b.	---	Good	
Cir. Clk.'s Off.	4th N.E.	12x23x27	Cement	Plaster	Electric 4 Windows	Counter 3 Desks	Steel 41	14	11 f.b.	---	Good	

CHART OF DEPOSITORYIES, SHOWING LOCATION, CONTENTS, AND CONDITION

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Depository	Floor Location	Dimensions	Floors	Walls & Ceiling	Light & Ventilation	Accommodations	Shelving			Quantity	Con- tain- ers	Miscel- laneous	Housing and accessi- bility	Records
							Type	Feet	Vols.					
Cir. Clk.'s Record Rm.	4th N.E.	12x23x27	Cement	Plaster	Electric 4 Windows	1 Table 3 Chairs	—	—	—	4	441 f.b.	—	—	Good
Cir. Clk.'s Vlt.	4th N.E.	12x23x27	Cement	Plaster	Poor Electric No Windows	1 Long table 4 Stools	Steel	2316	615	171 f.b.	96 Bd.	—	—	Good
Off. of Probation Officer	5th S.7.	12x17x36	Marble	Plaster	Electric 2 Windows	2 Counters 3 Desks 6 Chairs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Good
Sh. 's Priv. Off.	5th S.W.	12x12x12	Cement	Wood Plaster	Electric 1 Window	2 Desks 3 Chairs	Steel	9	2	1 f.b.	—	—	—	Good
Cor.'s Off.	1st N.W.	12x12x12	Cement	Plaster	Electric 1 Window	1 Table 1 Chair	—	—	—	10	31 f.b.	—	—	Good
Cor.'s Strm.	1st N.W.	12x6x9	Cement	Plaster	Poor Electric No Windows	1 Table 1 Chair	Steel	12	6	35 f.b.	—	—	—	Good
Bd. of Super- visors' Rm.	3rd S.W.	12x25x40	Cement	Plaster	Electric 3 Windows	2 Desks 3 Chairs	Steel	75	123	—	—	—	—	Good
Treas.'s Off.	1st S.W.	15x25x45	Cement	Plaster	Electric 6 Windows	None for consultants	Steel	132	24	48 f.b.	3 Bd.	—	—	Good

CHART OF DEPOSITORYIES, SHOWING LOCATION, CONTENTS, AND CONDITION

Depository Loca- tion	Floor Loca- tion	Dimen- sions	Walls & Ceiling	Light & Venti- lation	Accomo- dations	Shelving			Quantity		Records
						Type	Feet	Vols.	Con- tain- ers	Miscel- laneous	
Treas. 's Vlt.	1st S.W.	12x12x14	Cement Plaster	Electric 1 Win- dow	2 Tables 2 Chairs	Steel	346	299	174 f.b.	67 Bdl.	Crowded, 100% more space needed
Aud. 's Front Rm.	3rd N.E.	12x17x21	Cement Plaster	Electric 2 Win- dows	2 Tables 2 Chairs	—	—	8	50 f.b.	— — —	Good
Aud. 's Rear Rm.	3rd N.E.	12x12x21	Cement Plaster	Electric 2 Win- dows	2 Tables 2 Chairs	—	—	2	68 f.b.	— — —	Good
Off. of Supt. of Sch.	3rd N.E.	12x23x30	Cement Plaster	Electric 3 Win- dows	5 Desks 1 Table 8 Chairs	—	—	112	92 f.b.	12 Bdl.	Good
Strm. of Supt. of Sch.	3rd N.E.	12x8x26	Lino- leum Plaster	Electric drop light 2 Win- dows	1 Table 1 Chair	Wood	80	15	— — —	— — —	Good
Off. of Supt. of Hwys.	3rd N.E.	12x23x30	Cement Plaster	Electric 2 Win- dows	1 Table 4 Chairs	Wood	—	—	— — —	— — —	Good
Vlt. of Supt. of Hwys.	3rd N.E.	12x6x12	Cement Plaster	Poor Electric No win- dows	1 Table None	Steel Wood	10	131	75 f.b.	— — —	96 Bdl.
Work Rm. of Supt. of Hwys.	3rd N.E.	12x12x27	Cement Plaster	Electric 5 Win- dows	5 Tables 1 Desk 3 Chairs	Steel Wood	9	56	18 f.b.	— — —	Good

CHART OF DEPOSITORYIES, SHOWING LOCATION, CONTENTS, AND CONDITION

Depository	Floor Loca- tion	Dimen- sions	Floors	Walls & Ceiling	Light & Venti- lation	Accommo- dations	Shelving			Records		
							Type	Feet	Vols.	Con- tain- ers	Quantity	Miscel- laneous
Co. Judge's Off.	3rd N.E.	12x21x27	Cement	Plaster	Electric 4 Win- dows	2 Tables 2 Desks 6 Chairs	Steel	150	1	23 f.b. 1 Book- case	---	Good
Off. of Home Bureau	5th S.W.	12x17x21	Cement	Plaster	Electric 2 Win- dows	2 Tables 2 Desks 4 Chairs	Wood	72	4	3 f.b.	---	Good
Cemmon Vlt.	5th S.W.	12x18x25	Con- crete	Plaster	Poor Electric No Win- dows	None	Steel Wood	500	1929	134 f.b.	40 Bbl. 7 Wood boxes	Crowded, Dusty Shelving needed

Vermilion County Jail, 38 South Vermilion Street, at Water Street, Danville
(Three stories; brick construction [1874]; 500,000 cubic feet)

Depository	Floor Loca- tion	Dimen- sions	Floors	Walls & Ceiling	Light & Venti- lation	Accommo- dations	Shelving			Records			
							Type	Feet	Vols.	Con- tain- ers	Quantity	Miscel- laneous	Housing and Accessi- bility
Sh.'s Off.	1st	15x20x22	Wood	Steel Con- crete	Electric 2 Win- dows	1 Desk 2 Chairs	---	---	---	11	30 f.b.	---	Good

CHART OF DEPOSITORYES, SHOWING LOCATION, CONTENTS, AND CONDITION
 Vermilion County Home, Catlin Road, 3 miles southwest of Danville
 (Three stories and basement; brick construction [1909]; 3,600,000 cubic feet)

Depository	Floor Loca- tion	Dimen- sions	Floors	Walls & Ceiling	Light & Venti- lation	Accomo- dations	Shelving			Quantity			Records	
							Type	Feet	Vols.	Con- tain- ers	Miscel- laneous	Housing and Accessi- bility		
Off. of Supt.	1st	12x15x15	Cement	Plaster	Electric 2 Win- dows	1 Table 1 Desk 3 Chairs	Steel	3	4	1 f.5.	---	Good		

Chamber of Commerce Building, 101 West North Street, Danville
 (Two stories; brick construction [1918]; 67,500 cubic feet)

Depository	Floor Loca- tion	Dimen- sions	Floors	Walls & Ceiling	Light & Venti- lation	Accomo- dations	Shelving			Quantity			Records	
							Type	Feet	Vols.	Con- tain- ers	Miscel- laneous	Housing and Accessi- bility		
Farm Bureau	2nd	10x17x21	Wood	Plaster	Electric 2 Win- dows	3 Desks 10 Chairs	--	--	6	3 f.5.	---	Good		

Tuberculosis Dispensary, 808 North Logan Street, Danville
 (One and one-half stories; brick and concrete construction [1934]; 33,323 cubic feet)

Depository	Floor Loca- tion	Dimen- sions	Floors	Walls & Ceiling	Light & Venti- lation	Accomo- dations	Shelving			Quantity			Records	
							Type	Feet	Vols.	Con- tain- ers	Miscel- laneous	Housing and Accessi- bility		
Off. of TB Dispensary	1st	12x15x20	Cement	Plaster	Electric 3 Win- dows	2 Desks 3 Chairs	--	--	3	15 f.5.	---	Good		
Meeting Rm.	Bsmt.	12x20x46	Cement	Plaster	Electric 6 Win- dows	4 Tables 4 Chairs	--	--	--	--	3 Crates	Good		

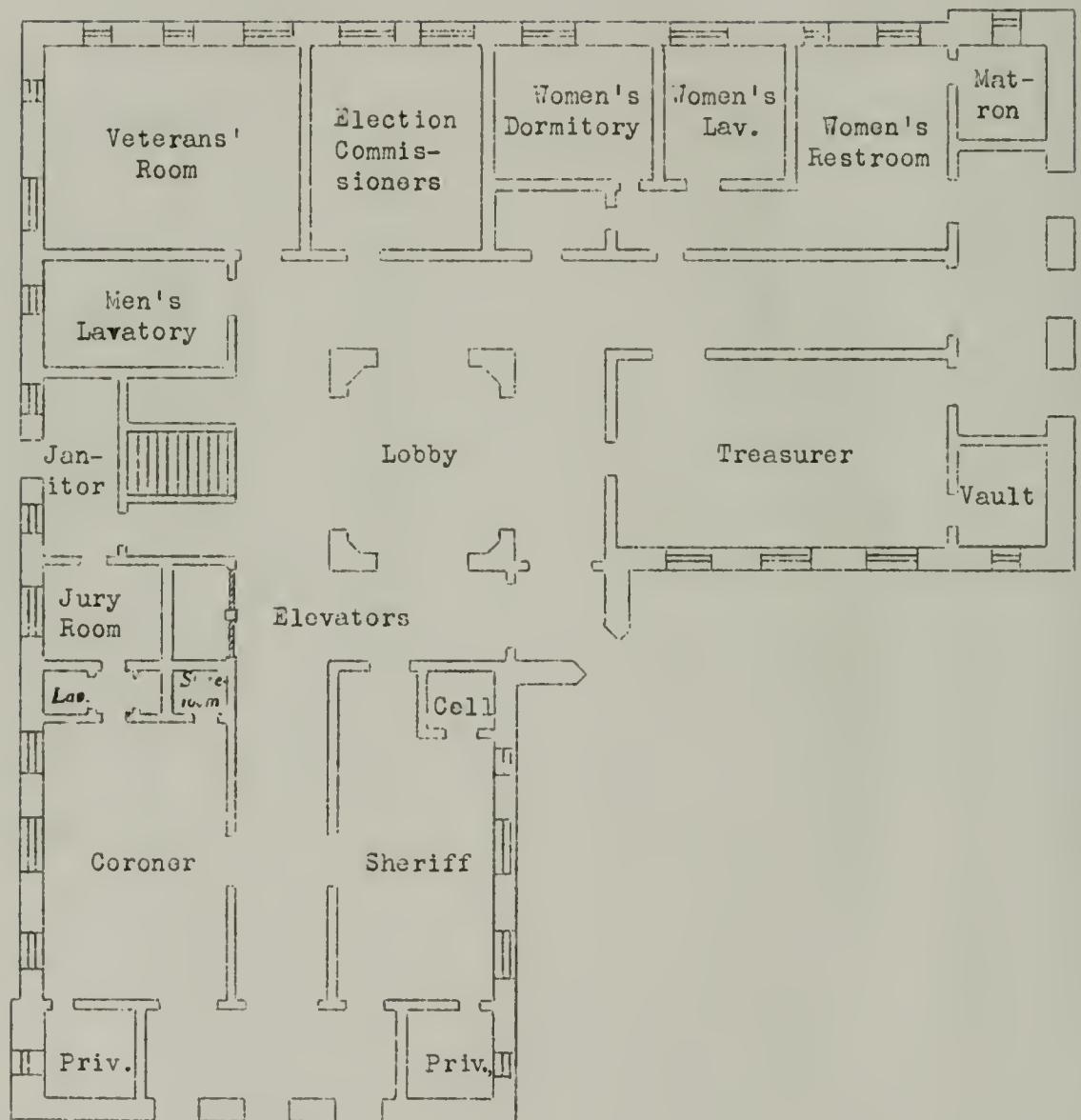
CHART OF DEPOSITORYES, SHOWING LOCATION, CONTENTS, AND CONDITION

Juvenile Detention Home, R.R. 4, Danville, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles SW. of courthouse on Catlin Road
(Two stories; brick and stone construction - 1868; 375,000 cubic feet)

Depository	Floor Location	Dimensions	Floors	Ceiling	Light & Ventilation	Accommodations	Shelving				Records			
							Type	Feet	Vols.	Contain-ers	Quantity	Miscel-laneous	Housing & Accessi-bility	
Office of Supt.	1st	10x7x11	Wood	Plaster	Electric 1 Window	1 Desk 1 Chair	---	---	1	---	---	---	Good	

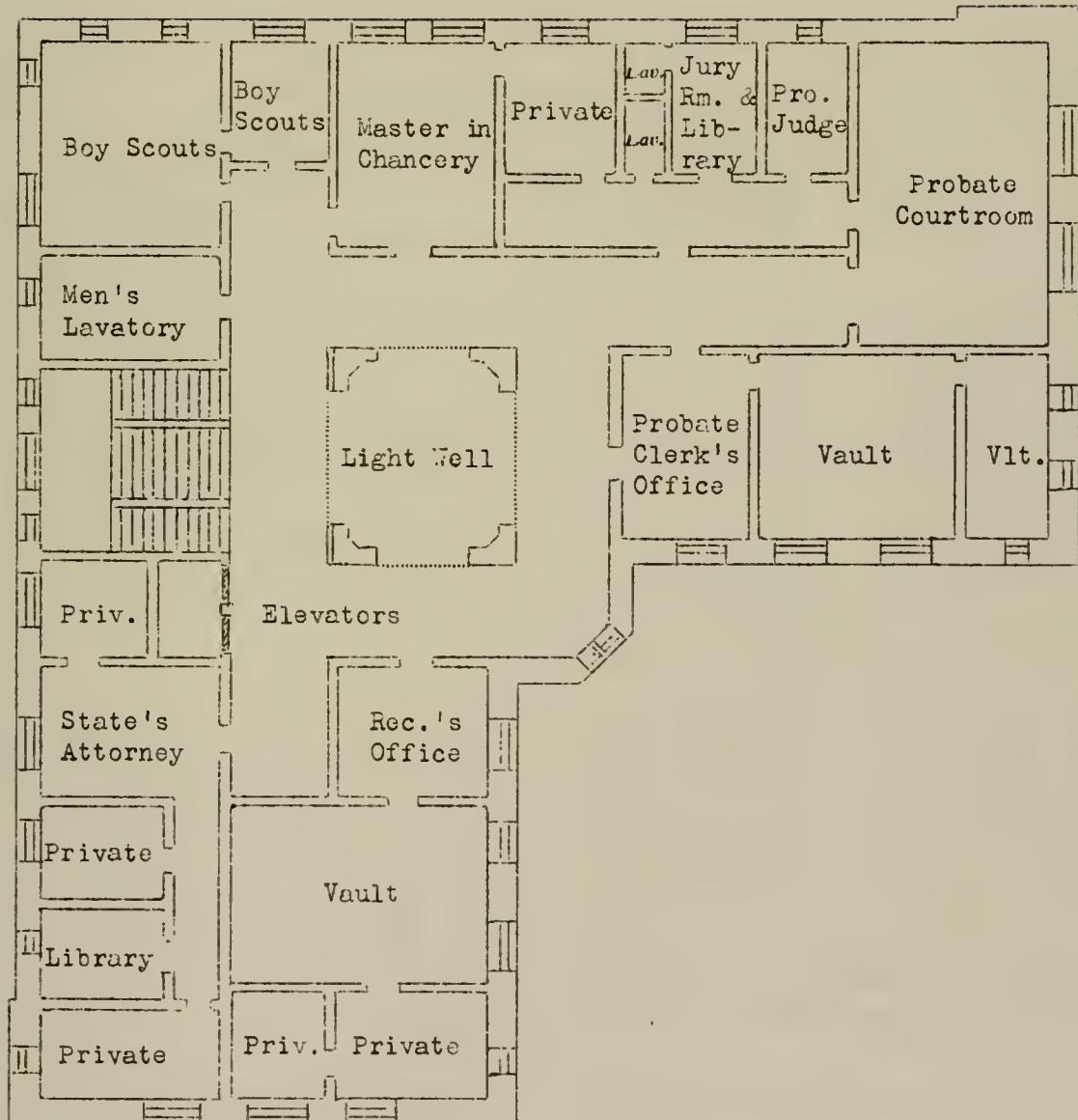
Residence of Mine Inspector, R.R. 6, Westville
(One story; frame construction; 12,000 cubic feet)

Depository	Floor Location	Dimensions	Floors	Ceiling	Light & Ventilation	Accommodations	Shelving				Records			
							Type	Feet	Vols.	Contain-ers	Quantity	Miscel-laneous	Housing & Accessi-bility	
Bedroom of Mine Inspector	1st	9x12x15	Wood	Plaster	2 Windows	1 Desk 1 Chair	---	---	---	---	1 Bd.	Good		



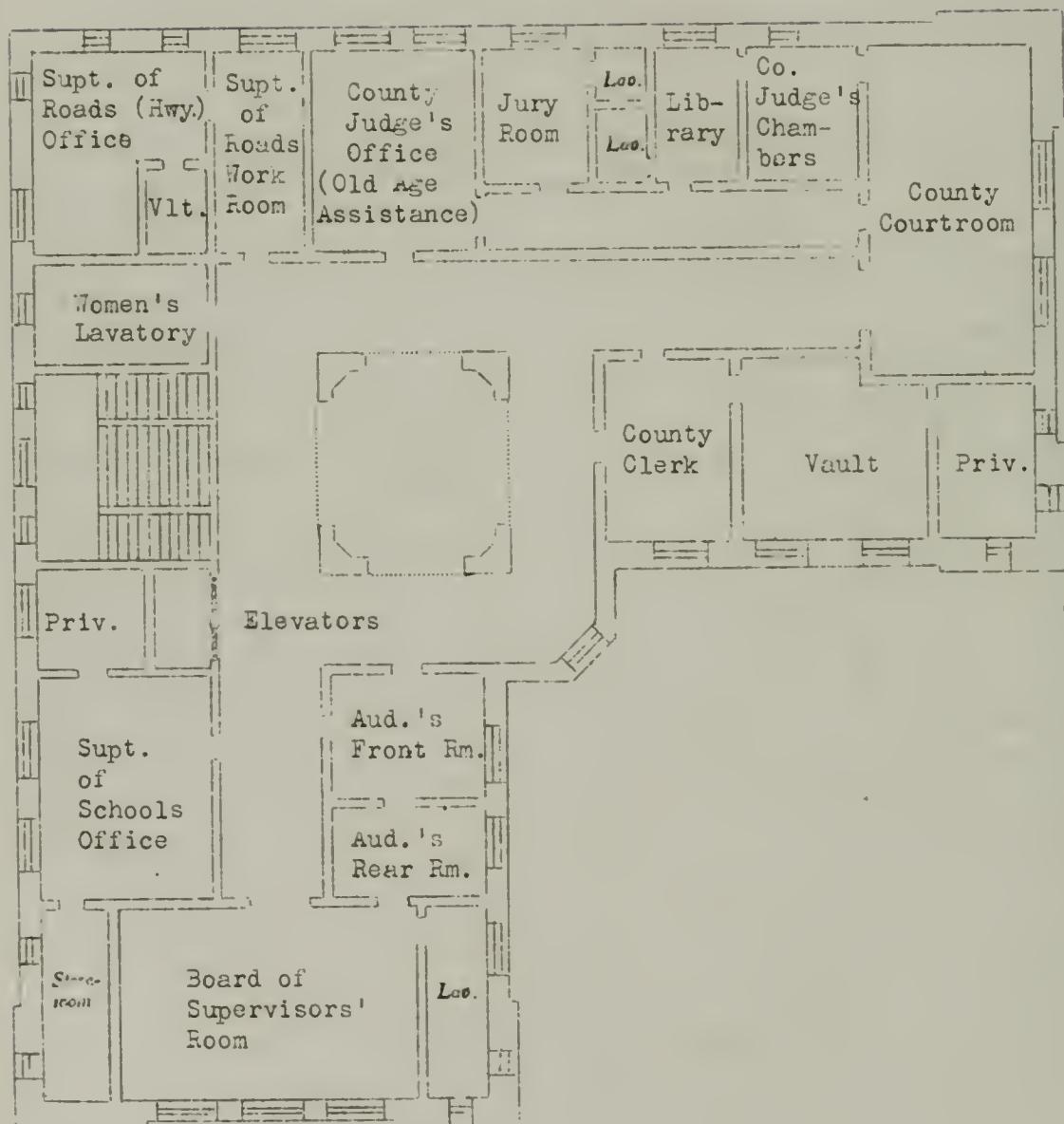
VERMILION COUNTY COURTHOUSE

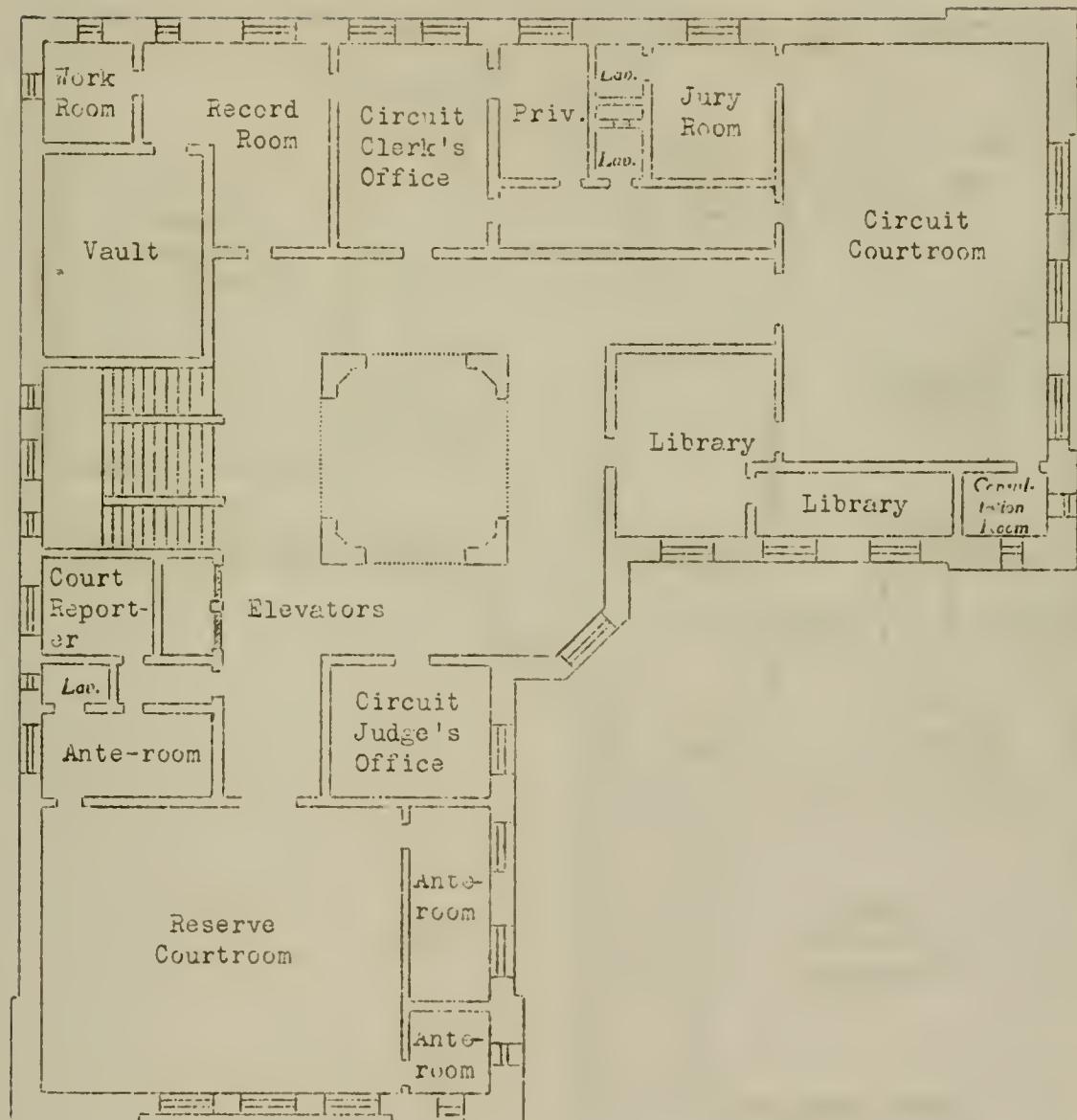
FIRST FLOOR



VERMILION COUNTY COURTHOUSE

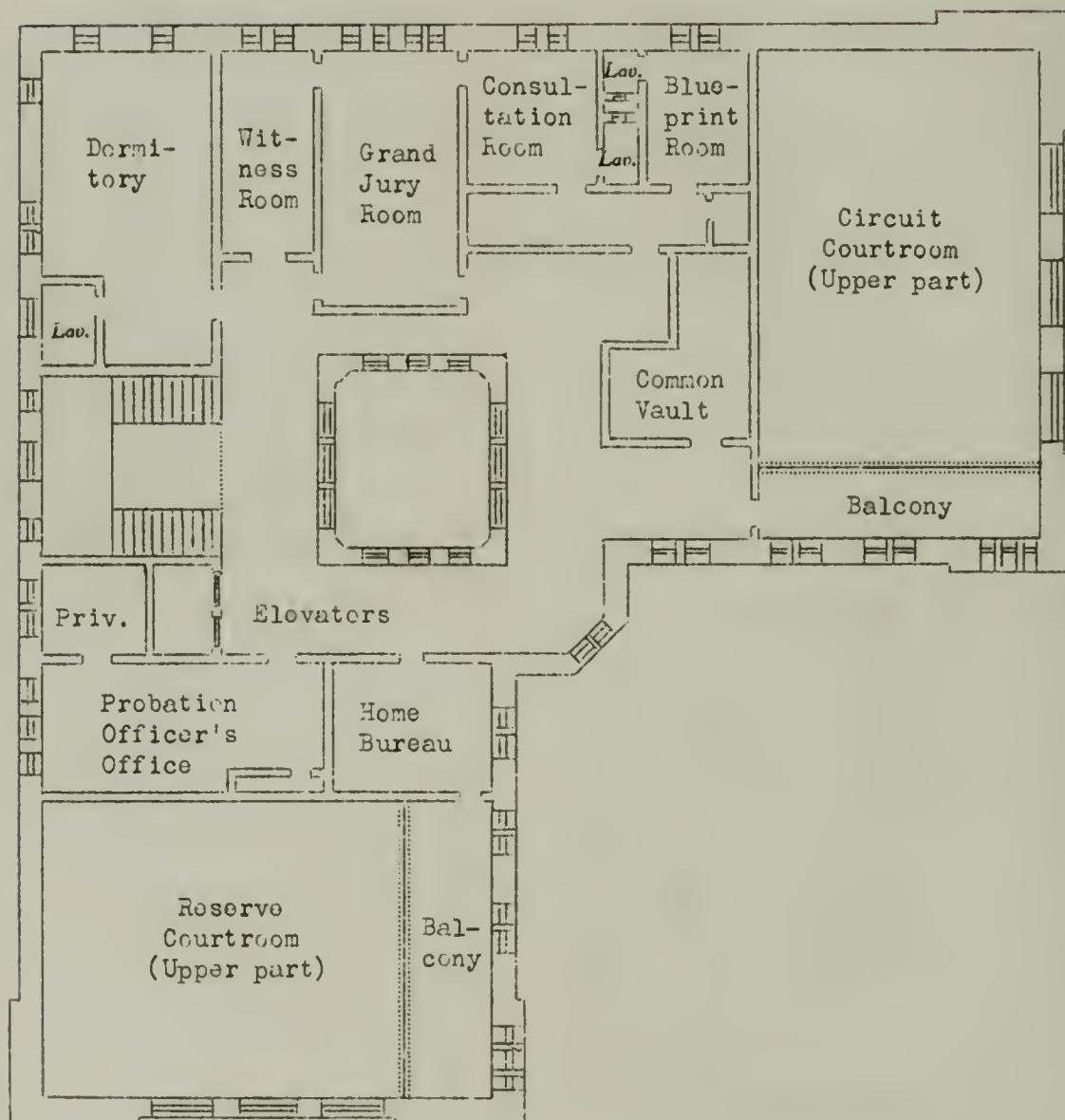
SECOND FLOOR





VERMILION COUNTY COURTHOUSE

FOURTH FLOOR



5. ABBREVIATIONS, SYMBOLS, AND EXPLANATORY NOTES

alph.	alphabetical(ly)
app.	appendix
arr.	arranged, arrangement
Art.	Article
assr.	assessor
atty.	attorney
aud.	auditor
bd.	board
bdl.	bundle(s)
bldg.	building
bsmt.	basement
cf.	confer (compare)
ch.	chapter(s)
chron.	chronological(ly)
cir.	circuit
clk.	clerk
co.	county
coll.	collector
cont.	continued
cor.	coroner
ct.	court
dept.	department
f.b.	file box(es)
f.d.	file drawer(s)
f., ff.	and following (page, pages)
fl.	floor
fm.	form
ft.	feet
hdgs.	headings
hdw.	handwritten
hwys.	highways
ibid.	ibidem (in the same place)
i.e.	id est (that is)
Ill.	Illinois Reports (Supreme Court)
Ill. App.	Illinois Appellate Court (Reports)
Ill. S.A.	Illinois Statutes Annotated
in.	inch(es)
L.	Laws (of Illinois)
loc. cit.	loco citato (in the place cited)
mi.	mile(s)
n.	footnote(s)
n(s).	number(s)
N.W.	Northwestern Reporter
off.	office
op. cit.	opere citato (in the work cited)

Abbreviations, Symbols,
and Explanatory Notes

p.	page(s)
pr.	printed
Priv. L.	Private Laws (of Illinois)
pro.	probate
rec.	recorder
R.L.	Revised Laws (of Illinois)
rm.	room
R.S.	Revised Statutes (of Illinois)
sch.	school(s)
sec.	section(s)
sep.	separate
Sess.	Session
sh.	sheriff
Sp.	Special
strm.	storeroom
supt.	superintendent
surv.	surveyor
treas.	treasurer
twp(s).	township(s)
U.S.R.S.	United States Revised Statutes
U.S.S.L.	United States Statutes at Large
v.	volume(s)
vet.	veterinarian
vice	in place of
vlt.	vault
--	current

1. Despite inaccuracies in spelling and punctuation, titles of records are shown in the inventory proper exactly as on volumes and file boxes. The current or most recent title is used as the title of the entry.

2. Explanatory additions to inadequate titles and corrections of erroneous titles are enclosed in parentheses and have initial capitals.

3. In the absence of titles, supplied titles are capitalized and enclosed in parentheses.

4. In the title set-up, letters or numbers in parentheses indicate the exact labeling on volumes or file boxes. If the volumes or file boxes are unlabeled, no labeling is indicated.

5. Title line cross references are used to complete series for records kept separately for a period of time, and in other records for different periods of time, as in entry 24, "1826-1919 in Supervisors' Record, entry 2." They are also used in all artificial entries - records which must be shown separately under their own proper office or section heading even though they are kept in files or records appearing elsewhere in the inventory, as in entry 14, "1902-17 in Miscellaneous

Abbreviations, Symbols,
and Explanatory Notes

Papers, entry 87; 1918-- in Supervisors' Papers, entry 1." In both instances, the description of the master entry shows the title and entry number of the record from which the cross reference is made, as in entry 1, "Also contains (Contracts and Bids), 1918--, entry 14; . . ." Dates shown in the description of the master entry are only for the part or parts of the record contained therein, and are shown only when they vary from those of the master entry.

6. Separate third paragraph cross references from entry to entry, and "see also" references under subject headings, are used to show prior, subsequent, or related records which are not part of the same series.

7. Where no explanation of the beginning or for the discontinuance of a record is given, and where no cross reference appears, the information explaining such beginning or discontinuance could not be ascertained.

8. Unless the index is self-contained, an entry for the index immediately follows its record entry. Cross references are given for exceptions to this rule.

9. Records may be assumed to be in good condition unless otherwise indicated.

10. On maps and plat records, the names of author, engraver, and publisher, and information on scale have been omitted only when these data were not ascertainable.

11. Unless otherwise specified, all records are located in the county courthouse.

I. COUNTY BOARD

In Illinois, the county board is that body which exercises the corporate or politic power of the county.¹ In Vermilion County since 1826² three bodies have successively acted as a county board: the county commissioners' court, the county court, and the board of supervisors.

The Constitution of 1818 provided that there should be elected in each county, for the purpose of transacting all county business, three commissioners whose term of service, powers, and duties should be regulated and defined by law.³ The first General Assembly denominated the commissioners a court of record, styled the county commissioners' court.⁴ Four annual sessions were required to be held for six days each, unless the business should be completed sooner; additionally, any one of the commissioners had power, upon giving five days notice to the remaining commissioners and the clerk of the court, to call a special court which had the same authority as at a regular session.⁵ The first commissioners were elected for an irregular term;⁶ subsequently, it was provided that they should be elected at each biennial general election;⁷ and in 1837, the term was lengthened to three years and staggered, with one new commissioner elected annually.⁸ Thereafter, the commissioner who was longest in office was to be recognized as the presiding officer of the court.⁹ Compensation, originally set at the sum of \$2.50 for each day's attendance in holding court,¹⁰ later was reduced to \$1.50.¹¹ In 1821 provision was

1. R.L.1827, p. 107; R.S.1845, p. 130; R.S.1874, p. 306.

2. Vermilion County was created in 1826. L.1826, p. 50.

3. Constitution of 1818, Schedule, sec. 4.

4. L.1819, p. 175.

5. Ibid., p. 175,176.

6. Ibid., p. 100. The commissioners were to continue in office from the election held on the fourth Monday in April, 1819, until the first Wednesday in August, 1820, and until their successors were elected and qualified. Not until 1821 was provision made for the election of such successors (L.1821, p. 80). In Vermilion County, the first commissioners held office from March 6, 1826 to August of the same year, the next occurrence of a regular biennial election.

7. L.1821, p. 80.

8. L.1837, p. 103,104. In 1838, to initiate the new procedure, three commissioners were elected; by lot, they held office respectively for one, two, and three years.

9. Ibid., p. 104.

10. L.1819, p. 176.

11. R.L.1827, p. 205.

County Board

made for the removal of commissioners for malfeasance or nonfeasance of duties, with proceedings as in criminal cases;¹ when the first criminal code was enacted in 1827, the penalty was modified to a fine of not more than \$200, with removal from office only upon recommendation of the jury.² Vacancies resulting from any cause were filled by special election upon order of the clerk of the court to the district judges of election.³

In 1848 when Illinois adopted a new constitution, the county commissioners' court was discontinued. In its place, the constitution provided for an administrative body to be composed of an elected officer, the county judge, and such number of justices of the peace as should be required by law.⁴ In the following legislative session, the General Assembly provided for the election of two justices of the peace to sit with the county judge to transact county business.⁵ Their term of office, like that of the county judge, was set at four years.⁶ This body, styled the county court, was required to hold four sessions annually and when so sitting, had all power, jurisdiction, and authority formerly conferred upon the county commissioners' court.⁷ The compensation of the county judge was originally set at \$2.50 for every day of holding court.⁸ In 1855 the amount was increased to \$3.00.⁹

The new constitution also directed the General Assembly to provide, by general law, for a township organization under which any county might organize whenever a majority of the voters in the county should so determine.¹⁰ By provision of the subsequent enabling acts,¹¹ a board of supervisors, whose members were to be elected one in each township annually,¹² was created to transact all county business in counties adopting township organization.¹³ The board of supervisors was to meet for

1. L.1821, p. 20-22. Conviction further carried disqualification from holding office for one year.
2. R.L.1827, p. 145.
3. L.1837, p. 104. No election was required to be held if the term of the commissioner vacating office would have expired within six months from the date of vacancy.
4. Constitution of 1848, Art. V, sec. 16,17,19.
5. L.1849, p. 65,66.
6. Constitution of 1848, Art. V, sec. 17; L.1849, p. 62,65,66.
7. L.1849, p. 65.
8. Ibid., p. 63.
9. L.1855, p. 181.
10. Constitution of 1848, Art. VII, sec. 6.
11. L.1849, p. 190-244; L.1851, p. 35-78. The later law repealed and was a complete substitute for the earlier, but so far as their effect on the sphere of county government is concerned, there was almost no difference between the two.
12. L.1849, p. 192; L.1851, p. 38.
13. L.1849, p. 202-4; L.1851, p. 50-52.

one regular session a year with the provision that special meetings might be held when convenient.¹ The board members were compensated at the rate of \$1.50 a day,² and a fine was provided in the sum of \$250.00, for refusal to perform, or neglect, of duties.³

Vermilion County was governed by the county court from 1849 to 1851, when township organization was instituted.⁴ In 1870 Illinois adopted a new constitution, which continued the provision for township organization in counties so electing,⁵ and provided for a different form of county board to supplant the county court as an administrative body. This board was to consist of three officers, styled county commissioners, and by subsequent legislation was given all powers, jurisdiction, and authority formerly vested in the county court when acting in its administrative capacity.⁶ As Vermilion retained township organization from its adoption in 1850 to the present the county has never been effected by these laws.

Since 1874, population has been recognized as a factor in local representation on the board of supervisors. In that year, each town or city, in addition to its regular supervisor, became entitled to one assistant supervisor if it had four thousand or more inhabitants, two if sixty-five hundred, and one more for every additional twenty-five hundred.⁷ The assistant supervisors, whose terms run concurrently with those of the regular supervisors,⁸ have no power or duties as town officers, but are members of the county board and enjoy the same powers and rights as other members.⁹ The population requirements in this respect have since changed,

1. L.1849, p. 202; L.1851, p. 51. In 1861 it was provided that special meetings could be called upon request of one third of the members of the board (L.1861, p. 236). Since 1899 the board has been required to hold two regular meetings (L.1899, p. 363).
2. L.1849, p. 203; L.1851, p. 52. In 1861, compensation was increased to \$2.00 a day (L.1861, p. 238).
3. L.1849, p. 203, 204. This fine was reduced in 1851 to \$200 (L.1851, p. 52). Subsequent legislation reduced it still further and added the more frequent penalty for misfeasance, disqualification for office (R.S.1874, p. 1080).
4. In 1850 Vermilion County adopted township organization, effective in 1851.
5. Constitution of 1870, Art. X, sec. 5.
6. Ibid., Art. X, sec. 6; L.1873-74, p. 79, 80.
7. R.S.1874, p. 1075.
8. L.1933, p. 1115.
9. R.S.1874, p. 1080; L.1925, p. 605; L.1929, p. 774; L.1931, p. 905, 907; L.1933, p. 1115.

but have not affected Vermilion County.¹ At present its board of supervisors has forty-one members. The term of office of supervisors, lengthened in 1889 to two years,² was further extended in 1929 to four years.³ Compensation was increased from \$1.50 to \$5.00 a day in 1919,⁴ lowered to \$4.00 in 1933,⁵ and raised again to \$5.00 in 1937,⁶ with an allowance of five cents per mile for necessary travel.

The function of the Illinois county board, in contrast to its legal status, have undergone little change since the beginning of statehood, the development being merely one of accretion and increasing complexity of duties within a well-defined and nearly static sphere of authority and jurisdiction. The law establishing the court of county commissioners conferred upon it jurisdiction in all matters concerning county revenue.⁷ Of this basic provision, nearly all other statutory powers of the court can be considered extensions; some, enunciated in the same law, already show such a legislative viewpoint. The court was given power to regulate and impose the county tax, and to grant such licenses as might also bring in a revenue; additionally, it was given authority over all public roads, canals, turnpike roads, and toll bridges.⁸ Other legislation by the first General Assembly gave the court power to buy and sell lots whereon to erect county buildings and to contract for their construction;⁹ later, in the case of the courthouse at least, the court was declared to have the care and custody of the property and the right to make certain disposition of it.¹⁰ Care of the indigent was also made a function of the court; it was required to make appropriations, to be levied and collected in the same manner as other county revenue, for their support. As an extension of this fiscal function, it was required to appoint an overseer of the poor in every township and establish a county poorhouse if necessary.¹¹ Fiscal control over school lands was exercised at first solely through the court's power of appointment of the trustees

1. In 1931 a different set of population requirements was applied in counties of one hundred thousand or more inhabitants (L.1931, p. 908). Two years later the differentiating figure was reduced to ninety thousand (L.1933, p. 1116). Vermilion County with its population of 89,339, according to the 1930 U.S. Census, was not affected at either time. Population Bulletin, p. 9.
2. L.1889, p. 109; L.1917, p. 793; L.1925, p. 605.
3. L.1929, p. 774,775; L.1931, p. 905.
4. L.1849, p. 203; L.1857, p. 186; L.1871-72, p. 444; L.1919, p. 569.
5. L.1933, p. 615.
6. L.1937, p. 601.
7. L.1819, p. 175.
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid., p. 237,238.
10. L.1843, p. 128.
11. L.1819, p. 127; L.1839, p. 138,139.

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of school lands;¹ after the creation of the office of county school commissioner,² firmer control was effected through the medium of reports which the commissioner was required to submit to the court.³ By the terms of another early provision, a significant precursor of many similar ones to be found in more recent years, the court also had authority to examine the full accounts of the commissioner.⁴ Other aspects of government which, if farther removed from the fiscal core, come early into this jurisdictional sphere, are elections and juries. With regard to the former, the court was authorized to establish election precincts,⁵ appoint judges of election,⁶ and allow compensation to election officials for services and stationery.⁷ Its duty with regard to juries was relatively simple; it was required to select two panels each of petit and grand jurors. The former were required to be enrolled on the list of taxable inhabitants; the latter, only to be freeholders or householders.⁸

The substitution of the county court for the county commissioners' court produced no important changes in the sphere of government; neither the second constitution nor the enabling legislation made any original pronouncements with regard to the powers or duties of the former.⁹

The revised law on township organization, in the main, only made more inclusive and definite the powers of the board.¹⁰ The board was given authority to purchase and hold any land within the county for the use of its inhabitants; it was also given authority to make such contracts, and to purchase and hold such personal property as might be necessary to the exercise of its powers; moreover, it could make such orders for the disposition, regulation, or use of the corporate property as might seem to be to the interest of the inhabitants.¹¹ Explicit also, was the authority to audit all claims against the county, and the accounts of such officers as were not otherwise provided for by law.¹² The board was also given power to appropriate funds for the construction

1. R.L.1827, p. 366.

2. R.L.1829, p. 150.

3. L.1831, p. 175; R.S.1845, p. 500,501.

4. L.1831, p. 175.

5. L.1821, p. 74. There was in this law and in many of those following, a limit to the number of precincts which could be established. See L.1825, p. 168; R.L.1827, p. 255; R.L.1829, p. 54; L.1835, p. 141. Prior to 1821, each township was declared by statute to constitute an election district (L.1819, p. 90).

6. L.1819, p. 90.

7. Ibid., p. 99.

8. Ibid., p. 255; L.1923, p. 172.

9. Constitution of 1848, Art. V, sec. 19; L.1849, p. 65.

10. The Act of February 17, 1851, previously cited (L.1851, p. 35-78).

11. Ibid., p. 50.

12. Ibid., p. 51.

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of roads and bridges in any part of the county whenever a majority of the whole board might deem it proper and expedient.¹

From the enabling legislation of the present constitutional period is drawn the following brief statement of the principal functions of the county board:

1. The purchase, sale, and custody of the real and personal property of the county.
2. The examination and settlement of accounts against the county.
3. The issuance of orders on the county treasury in pursuance of its fiscal administration.
4. The examination of accounts concerning the receipts and expenditures of county officers.²
5. The supervision of elections;³ the selection of juries;⁴ the construction and maintenance of roads and bridges;⁵ the care of the indigent, infirm, and disabled.⁶
6. The appropriation of funds necessary to the effecting of its functions;⁷ the raising of such sums through taxation; and in general, the management of county funds and county business.⁸

At all times the county board has had a clerk who has served it in a ministerial capacity. The law creating the county commissioners' court provided that it should have such an officer, and gave it the power to appoint him.⁹ This appointive power was rescinded in 1837 by an act which made the office elective.¹⁰

When the county court supplanted the county commissioners' court, the office of clerk of the latter body ceased to exist. A new office was created by statute, that of clerk of the county court.¹¹ When the court sat for the transaction of county business, its clerk was in effect a clerk of a county board; legal recognition of this distinction was given in the provision that the clerk should keep his records of the court's

1. L.1851, p. 51.
2. R.S.1874, p. 306,307.
3. Ibid., p. 456,468.
4. Ibid., p. 630.
5. Ibid., p. 310.
6. Ibid., p. 757,758.
7. Ibid., p. 307.
8. Ibid., p. 306,307.
9. L.1819, p. 175.
10. L.1837, p. 49.
11. L.1849, p. 63.

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administrative actions separate from those of its judicial actions. For this purpose two sets of books were to be kept.¹

In 1870 the new constitution established the office of county clerk;² subsequently, the General Assembly provided that the county clerk should act as clerk of the county board³ as well as clerk of the county court.⁴ From that time to the present, the county board has been served in a ministerial capacity by this officer.

The major record kept by the clerk for the county board is the minutes of its proceedings. This heterogeneous record includes orders to issue warrants on the county treasury; the board's consideration of the action on reports of committees of its members on roads and bridges, indigent and infirm relief, schools, taxation, etc.; and its orders in regard to jurics, licenses, and other matters within its jurisdiction.⁵

The clerk also keeps, separately, a register of orders issued on the county treasury and lists of jury venire; files and preserves all bills of accounts acted on by the board; and has custody of reports required to be made to the board by the county treasurer, varicus school bodies, and a number of county officers.⁶ An obligation to prescrve a multiplicity of other records is clearly set forth in the general provision requiring the clerk to have the care and custody of all papers appertaining to, as well as filed in, his office.⁷

1. L.1849, p. 66.

2. Constitution of 1870, Art. X, sec. 8.

3. R.S.1874, p. 322.

4. Ibid., p. 260.

5. L.1819, p. 5,6,28,77,127,334,335,352; L.1823, p. 145,148; L.1826, p. 130,131; R.L.1829, p. 126,132-37,151-53; L.1831, p. 89,90; L.1835, p. 131,132,136; L.1839, p. 71,72; R.S.1845, p. 287,342, 403,437; L.1849, p. 66; L.1861, p. 234-37; R.S.1874, p. 323.

6. L.1819, p. 201,315; L.1825, p. 147; R.L.1827, p. 366; L.1845, p. 169; R.S.1845, p. 136; L.1861, p. 237; R.S.1874, p. 325.

7. R.S.1874, p. 322.

County Board - Proceedings of Board; Disposition of Accounts

Proceedings of Board

1. SUPERVISORS' PAPERS, 1906--. 151 f.b.

Original papers on county business submitted to board of supervisors, including roll calls, communications, proposals, reports of committees, resolutions, complaints filed with board of review, petitions, bills and claims, financial statements, and county budgets. Also contains (Contracts and Bids), 1918--, entry 14; Claims for Poor, 1933-34, entry 357; and (Road Plats), 1906--, entry 392. Arr. by date of document. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 10 x 4 x 14 - 6 x 11 x 24. 14 f.b., 1906-16, common vlt., 5th fl.; 137 f.b., 1917--, co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

2. SUPERVISORS' RECORD, 1826--. 26 v. (A-Z).

Record of proceedings of county commissioners' court, county court as county board, and county board of supervisors, showing reports of committees and county officers, and resolutions on various petitions, actions on claims, road plats, 1832-68, and general proceedings. Volumes A, B, and C originally titled County Commissioners' Court Record and then rebound under current title. Also contains Record List of Jurors, 1826-1919, entry 24; Board of Election Commissioners' Record, 1826-1908, entry 74; and County Court Record, 1849-58, entry 139. Arr. by date of meeting. Indexed alph. by subject matter. 1826-1916, hdw.; 1917--, typed. 500 p. 18 x 13 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

3. PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, 1929--. 2 v.

Clerk's minutes of proceedings of the board of supervisors, showing dates, names of chairman and members present, transactions of board, claims allowed and rejected, and reports of committees and county officers. Arr. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 200 p. 14 x 9 x 2. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

Disposition of Accounts
(See also entries 327-358)

Appropriation of Funds

4. COUNTY CLERK'S LEDGER, 1915--. 1 bdl., 2 v. Title varies: Ledger Sheets, 1 bdl., 1915-21.

County clerk's ledger of accounts of county funds, showing title of account, amounts and dates of debits and credits, purpose, totals, and balance. Arr. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. Bdl. 12 x 14 x 3; v. 100 p. 12 x 15 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. 1 bdl., 1915-21, co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.; 2 v., 1922--, co. clk.'s off., 3rd fl.

5. ACCOUNTS OF VERMILION COUNTY EMERGENCY RELIEF COMMITTEE, 1932-35. 2 v.

Ledger account of county emergency relief appropriations, showing names of persons receiving relief, and date, amount, and type of aid. Arr. by date of payment. No index. Typed under pr. hdgs. 100 p. 14 x 12 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

County Board - Disposi-
tion of Accounts

Register of County Orders

6. COUNTY ORDERS AND WARRANTS (Register), 1882--. 7 v. (1, 6 not numbered); 2 bdl. Missing: 1896-1902.

Register of county orders and warrants, showing date, amount, and purpose of order, name of payee, and date of cancellation. The two bundles, 1920-30, contain registered sheets which have been removed from volumes. Arr. by order no. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. V. 500 p. 15 x 12 x 4; bdl. 15 x 12 x 2. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

Cancelled County Orders (See
also entries 309, 310)

7. CANCELLED COUNTY ORDERS AND JURY CERTIFICATES, 1922--. 19 f.b.

Cancelled county orders and jury certificates showing date, amount, and number of order, name of payee, and account on which drawn. Also contains County Clerk's Checks, 1934--, entry 86. Arr. by date of order. No index. Hdw. and typed on pr. fm. 10 x 5 x 14 - 10 x 5 x 24. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

8. JURY CERTIFICATES, 1934--. 1 v.

Stubs of jury certificates, showing number, amount, and date of certificate, number of days of service, mileage, and name of payee. Arr. by certificate no. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 200 p. 18 x 13 x 1. Co. clk.'s off., 3rd fl.

9. MOTHERS' PENSION WARRANTS, 1930--. 7 v. Missing: February, 1933 - June, 1936.

Stubs of warrants issued in payment of mothers' pensions, showing number, date, and amount of warrant, case number, and name and signature of recipient. Arr. by warrant no. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 200 p. 18 x 13 x 1. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

10. RELIEF OF BLIND WARRANTS, 1933--. 9 v.

Stubs of warrants issued in payment of blind pensions, showing number, date, and amount of warrant, and name and signature of payee. Arr. by warrant no. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 200 p. 18 x 13 x 1. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

11. BIRTH AND DEATH WARRANTS, 1914-33. 1 v.

Stubs of warrants issued by county clerk in payment for reporting births and deaths, showing amount, date, and number of warrant, name of payee, number of births and deaths reported, and signature of recipient. Arr. by warrant no. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 200 p. 18 x 13 x 1. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

County Board - Management of
County Properties and Roads

Pension Fund Accounts and
Applications (See also entries
9, 10, 174)

12. BLIND APPLICATIONS, 1915--. 2 f.b.

Applications for blind relief, showing date, name and address of applicant, amount of pension, and date of approval. Arr. by date of application. No index. Hdw., typed, and hdw. and typed on pr. fm. $10\frac{1}{2}$ x $4\frac{1}{2}$ x 14. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

13. BLIND PENSION RECORDS, 1932--. 2 f.b.

Records of blind pension examinations, showing date and number of application, name, age, and address of applicant, date and result of examination, date and amount of award, and remarks. Arr. alph. by name of applicant. No index. Hdw. and typed on pr. fm. 18 x 24 x 30. Off. of probation officer, 5th fl.

Management of County Properties and Roads

Proposals, Bids, and Con-
tracts (See also entry 87[xii])

14. (CONTRACTS AND BIDS), 1902--. 1902-17 in Miscellaneous Papers, entry 87; 1918-- in Supervisors' Papers, entry 1.

Original contracts and bids for construction of county buildings and roads, showing name of contractor, amount and type of materials, estimated costs, and specifications.

15. ROADS (Road Construction Expense), 1920--. 17 f.b.

Contracts for road improvements, claims for construction and maintenance of highways, statements of salaries of road employees, with costs of materials, advertising, repairing machinery, and attorneys' fees for making contracts. Arr. by date of document. No index. Hdw., hdw. on pr. fm., typed, and typed on pr. fm. $13 \times 6 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

Bond Issues

16. BOND REGISTER, 1915--. 4 v. (1 not numbered, 1-3).

Register of bonds issued by county to build roads, bridges, and drainage districts, and to raise funds for school purposes, showing date of bond issue and date due, name of payee, amount of bond, rate of interest, and date of payment. Arr. by date of bond issue. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 400 p. $17\frac{1}{2} \times 11 \times 2$. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

Insurance

17. INSURANCE POLICIES, 1936--. 1 f.b.

Insurance policies covering county property, showing name of insurance company, location of home office, type, amount and date of policy, description of insured property, amount of premium, and date of expiration of policy. Arr. by expiration date of policy. No index. Hdw. and typed on pr. fm. $13 \times 6 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

County Board - Reports
to Board

Road Transactions

18. VERMILION COUNTY BOND ISSUE ROADS, 1916-17. 1 v.
Superintending engineers' letters to the Illinois Highway Commission, concerning finished hard roads, showing name and location of road, date of completion, notice of acceptance, and signature of engineer. Arr. by date of notice. No index. Typed. 125 p. 12 x 12 x 1. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

Reports to Board
(See also entries 87[xiv-xvi], 441)

19. REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICERS, 1873--. 6 f.b.
Reports of county officers to board of supervisors, showing items of receipts and disbursements of each office, certification by county treasurer, totals, balance, and date of report. Arr. by date of report. No index. Hdw., hdw. on pr. fm., typed, and typed on pr. fm. Condition of early paper is poor. 13 x 6 x 13 $\frac{1}{2}$. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

20. AUDITOR'S REPORTS, 1912--. 47 pamphlets.
Reports by auditors on audits of accounts of all county officers, showing amounts of receipts and disbursements of each office, date of audit, balance, certification of correctness of report and accounts, and signature of auditor. No obvious arr. No index. Typed. 30 p. 12 x 10 x $\frac{1}{2}$. 39 pamphlets, 1912-33, co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.; 8 pamphlets, 1934--, co. clk.'s off., 3rd fl.

21. ITEMIZED COST OF VERMILION COUNTY BOND ROADS, 1916--. 1 v.
Last entry 1932.
Statement of county bond issue road expenses, showing costs and enumeration of materials, upkeep, building expenses, date of completion, signature of county highway engineer, and acceptance by state chief highway engineer. Arr. by date of entry. No index. Typed on pr. fm. 150 p. 16 x 12 x 1. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

22. VERMILION COUNTY EMERGENCY RELIEF COMMISSION (Reports), 1932-35. 1 bdl.
Reports of committees appointed by board of supervisors to investigate and pass on applications for emergency relief, showing name of person applying for relief, findings of committee, and date and amount of grant. Arr. by date of report. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 9 x 3 x 14. Treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

23. MINERS' EXAMINATION BOARD OF VERMILION COUNTY, 1908-13. 2 v.
(1, 1).
Copies of reports by coal miners' examining board, showing name and address of miner, amount of receipts from examination fees, amount of rent for examination quarters, salaries of committee and clerk, office expenses, and date of payment. Arr. by date of report. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 575 p. 16 x 12 x 3. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

Jury Lists
(See also entries 87[xi], 132, 137,
168, 248, 274, 275)

24. RECORD LIST OF JURORS, 1920--. 4 v. 1826-1919 in Supervisors' Record, entry 2.

Lists of persons drawn for jury service, showing names and addresses of persons drawn, and dates of selection and service. Arr. by date of selection. No index. 1920-29, hdw.; 1930--, typed under pr. hdgs. 500 p. 18 x 13 x 3. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

II. COUNTY CLERK

Forerunner of the present county clerk was the clerk of the county commissioners' court. This court was the administrative body in Vermilion County from 1826,¹ the date of organization of the county, to 1849.² The Constitution of 1848 and laws of 1849 created a new judicial branch of county government presided over by the county judge and entitled the "county court," and provided for the quadrennial election of a "clerk of the county court."³ In addition to his duties as clerk of the judicial court, the incumbent was also to act as clerk of the administrative branch of government which consisted of the county judge and two justices of the peace.⁴ In 1850, Vermilion County adopted the township form of government necessitating the election of a board of supervisors to supplant the county court as the county administrative body.⁵ Accordingly, the clerk of the county court became ex-officio clerk of the board of supervisors.⁶

The above-mentioned clerks all performed the duties of county clerk as well as those of clerks of a judicial or administrative body. In fact, legislation frequently referred to these incumbents as "county clerks" when defining duties relating to county business as distinct from duties as clerks of judicial or administrative bodies. The Constitution of 1870 specifically provided for a county clerk⁷ who has continued to act to the present in this capacity, and also as clerk of the county board⁸ and clerk

1. Vermilion County was created in 1826. L.1826, p. 50.
2. Constitution of 1818, Schedule, sec. 4; L.1819, p. 175.
3. Constitution of 1848, Art. V, sec. 16,18,19; L.1849, p. 62,63.
4. L.1849, p. 65,66.
5. Constitution of 1848, Art. VII, sec. 6; L.1849, p. 192,197,203; L.1851, p. 38,45,50.
6. L.1849, p. 203; L.1851, p. 52; L.1861, p. 237.
7. Constitution of 1870, Art. VI, sec. 18 and Art. X, sec. 8.
8. R.S.1874, p. 322.

of the county court.¹ The revised statutes of 1874 adopted the use of a distinction of titles for each of his ex-officio capacities, applying the title "county clerk" only when referring to his duties as such.² It is the performance of these duties that gives rise to the records dealt with in this section.

The clerk was an appointee of the county commissioners' court in Vermilion County from 1826 to 1837.³ In the latter year the office became elective with a four-year term;⁴ a two-year term became effective in 1847.⁵ A bond of \$1,000 was set.⁶ The clerk of the county court served for a four-year term and was bonded in the sum of \$3,000.⁷ The Constitution of 1870 and the revised statutes of 1874, establishing the office of county clerk, provided for his election for a quadrennial term, and that the amount of his bond be set by the county board.⁸ The bond is entered upon the records of his office, and deposited with the clerk of the circuit court. He is required to take oath, and is commissioned by the Governor.⁹ The county seal is kept by the clerk and is used by him when required.

In general, the county clerk's performance of his functions results in records relating to the following: taxation, vital statistics, licenses, and bonds. Various officials and agencies having authority over these matters report to, or deposit records with, the county clerk who in this manner acts as a coordinating factor in the execution of local and state affairs. In regard to other of these matters, the clerk is required to perform duties on his own behalf and retain the records resulting from such performance.

Illustrations of both of these procedures may be found by examining the various duties and records relating to taxation. It is the duty of the county clerk to procure all books and blanks used in the assessment and collection of taxes, and to list in such books the lands and lots subject to taxation.¹⁰ These books are then turned over to the supervisor

1. R.S.1874, p. 260.

2. Ibid., p. 260,322.

3. L.1819, p. 175.

4. L.1837, p. 49.

5. L.1845, p. 28. Effective in 1847.

6. L.1819, p. 176,177; R.L.1833, p. 143; R.S.1845, p. 131.

7. L.1849, p. 63,64.

8. Constitution of 1870, Art. X, sec. 8; R.S.1874, p. 321.

9. R.S.1874, p. 321.

10. L.1867, p. 106; L.1871-72, p. 19,32; L.1903, p. 297. During the period of the first constitution such books and lists were prepared by the auditor of public accounts and turned over to the clerk of the county commissioners' court (L.1825, p. 173; R.L.1827, p. 329; L.1839, p. 3,4; L.1847, p. 79).

County Clerk

of assessments who has the township assessors enter the valuations against each piece of property listed. The supervisor completes revisions and corrections upon complaint of property owners and returns the books in duplicate to the county clerk.¹ Personal property assessments are handled in essentially the same manner. The board of review then makes adjustments on complaints and equalizes assessments between districts, certifying corrections and revisions to the county clerk.² The county clerk then reports the entire assessment list to the State Tax Commission for equalization, the equalized list then being used by the county clerk in ascertaining tax rates and extending taxes.³

The State Tax Commission also certifies to the county clerk the assessments on the capital stock of corporations and railroad and telegraph companies, it being the duty of the clerk to extend these taxes and retain the books after use by the collector.⁴

The books are next turned over to the county collector who, after collection, returns lists of collections, together with lists of uncollected real and personal property taxes.⁵ The county clerk attends all tax sales, prepares a list of all sales and issues duplicate reports thereof, records affidavits of purchases of property for taxes, and keeps a record known as the "tax judgment, sale, redemption, and forfeiture record."⁶

An extensive group of vital statistics records is kept by the county clerk, including records relating to births and deaths, marriages, physicians, and midwives. The first legislation in regard to the keeping of vital statistics was included in the act for the establishment of medical societies.⁷ One section of this act made it the duty of every physician to keep a record of births, deaths, and diseases occurring within the vicinity of his practice, and to transmit such record to his medical society, whereupon the record was to be published in the newspapers. In 1842 it was provided that a parent could appear before the clerk of the county

1. The first assessment officer was the county treasurer (R.L.1827, p. 328-36). In 1839 this function was performed by the district assessors, who received from the county clerk copies of the auditor's transcripts (L.1839, p. 3,4). The treasurer resumed these duties in 1844 (L.1843, p. 231), retaining them until the institution of township organization in 1851 resulted in township assessors acting in each township (L.1851, p. 38). The treasurer now acts as ex-officio supervisor of assessments (L.1898, p. 36-44).
2. L.1898, p. 36-44.
3. L.1919, p. 723.
4. L.1871-72, p. 11,13,16; L.1937, p. 1011,1012.
5. L.1849, p. 124,125; L.1871-72, p. 55; L.1931, p. 759.
6. L.1839, p. 3; L.1871-72, p. 40; L.1879, p. 250.
7. L.1819, p. 233.

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commissioners' court and make affidavit as to the birth of a child, and the eldest next of kin of a deceased person could similarly appear and make affidavit as to death.¹ It is probable that the tenor of the above-mentioned laws explains the fact that no birth or death records exist in Vermilion County prior to 1877, the first law, 1819, requiring no public record to be kept, and the 1842 law providing that affidavits "may" be made. The act of 1877 creating the State Board of Health required that all births and deaths in the county be reported to the county clerk by the attending physicians or accoucheurs.² Teeth were put into this and subsequent laws by providing penalties for noncompliance. In 1901, death certificates issued by physicians, midwives, or coroners were to be presented to town clerks who issued burial permits and forwarded the certificates to the county clerk.³ In 1903, certificates of death were to be turned over to the State Board of Health, which board, in turn, delivered to the county clerk all certificates so received.⁴ In 1915, it was provided that for the registration of all births, stillbirths, and deaths outside any city, village, or incorporated town, the township clerks should deposit a complete set of such records with the county clerk who was charged with the binding and indexing, or recording, and safekeeping of such records.⁵ From the earliest date, the legislation in regard to these matters provided that the clerk retain the abstracts and certificates, keep a record of births and deaths, maintain alphabetical indexes, and issue certified copies of certificates upon request. The clerk has also been required to prepare a register of all physicians and accoucheurs in the county.⁶

Since the organization of Vermilion County in 1826, the county clerk, or clerk of the county commissioners' court, has been required to file marriage certificates and certificates of parents' consent to the marriage of minors.⁷ In 1827 the clerk was required to keep a separate register of marriages in addition to his file of certificates.⁸ Before 1877, persons desiring to marry were required to secure licenses from the county clerk only when they had not previously published such intention, but in that year the securing of a license was made mandatory.⁹ Although a record of applications for marriage licenses has been kept by the clerk in this county since 1876, an act of 1937 appears to be the first legislation requiring the maintenance of such a record.¹⁰ The same act provides that

1. L.1842-43, p. 210-12.
2. L.1877, p. 209.
3. L.1901, p. 302,303.
4. L.1903, p. 315-18.
5. L.1915, p. 660.
6. L.1877, p. 209.
7. L.1819, p. 27; R.S.1845, p. 354; R.S.1874, p. 694.
8. R.L.1827, p. 289.
9. L.1877, p. 130.
10. L.1937, p. 909.

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persons desiring to marry shall present to the county clerk a certificate setting forth that such persons are free from venereal diseases, such certificates to be filed with the application for license to marry.¹ Indexes to marriage records have been kept in Vermilion County since its organization in 1826.

The county clerk is charged with a number of duties relating to elections, such as preparing and issuing blank ballots,² poll books,³ and certificates of election,⁴ and keeping a record of registers of elections,⁵ petitions,⁶ and marked ballots,⁷ tally sheets,⁸ and election returns which are transmitted to him by the judges of election.⁹ Abstracts of returns were formerly prepared by the clerk, but these are now originated by the election commissioners or judges of election and deposited with the clerk. Returned ballots are destroyed by the clerk six months after election, provided no contest in which the ballots are needed is in progress.¹⁰ In 1889, when returns of elections for school trustees were made to the county clerk, he was charged with furnishing to the county superintendent of schools a list of all such trustees.¹¹ Now the clerk does not enter into the procedure, the school trustees canvassing the returns and certifying directly to the superintendent of schools.¹²

The bonds of a number of officials are required to be transmitted to the clerk for filing and entering in a book maintained for that purpose.¹³ Justices' of the peace and constables' oaths, bonds, and securities are approved by the clerk and entered in a separate book in accordance with statutory requirement. This book shows the date on which each justice of the peace and constable was sworn into office and the date of commission by the Governor. Resignations from these offices are made to the county clerk who enters such fact in the justices' and constables' record.¹⁴

1. L.1937, p. 910.
2. L.1891, p. 113; L.1911, p. 311.
3. L.1871-72, p. 386.
4. L.1819, p. 96; L.1821, p. 79; L.1823, p. 64; L.1885, p. 176.
5. L.1865, p. 59; L.1871-72, p. 386.
6. L.1911, p. 310,311; L.1929, p. 422.
7. L.1891, p. 118.
8. L.1885, p. 143.
9. L.1819, p. 86; L.1821, p. 77; L.1823, p. 64; L.1871-72, p. 96.
10. L.1917, p. 444.
11. L.1889, p. 271,322.
12. L.1909, p. 352.
13. R.S.1845, p. 396,397; L.1861, p. 237,238; R.S.1874, p. 325; L.1895, p. 188.
14. L.1895, p. 188.

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The clerk is also charged with issuing licenses to taverns,¹ ferries,² etc., and keeping records of the same. Other records kept are: those relating to estrays;³ registers of professionals, including physicians,⁴ midwives,⁵ dentists,⁶ chiropodists,⁷ and veterinarians;⁸ list of county officers; list of town officers which is furnished annually by the town clerk;⁹ record of notaries public;¹⁰ and book of state civil service rules.¹¹ Referring to his list of town officers, the county clerk reports annually to the State Department of Public Health the names and addresses of the supervisor, assessor, and clerk of each township, and the dates of the expiration of their terms of office.¹²

Included in the provision that the county clerk be charged with the care and custody of all records, books, and papers appertaining to, and filed or deposited in, his office¹³ are those duties as clerk of the county board, wherein he is required to record the proceedings of the board and to file all their books, records, and accounts.¹⁴ The clerk is also required to keep jury lists¹⁵ and a book in which he enters details as to orders upon the treasurer. He is further required to maintain alphabetical indexes of all records and papers in his office, and to supply copies of these records of papers to any person upon request and payment of the required fee.¹⁶

1. L.1819, p. 77-79; L.1933-34, Second Sp. Sess., p. 64-66.
2. R.L.1827, p. 221; R.S.1874, p. 530.
3. L.1819, p. 206, 207; R.S.1874, p. 483.
4. L.1877, p. 209; L.1899, p. 275; L.1923, p. 441, 442.
5. Ibid.
6. L.1881, p. 79; L.1899, p. 273; L.1909, p. 279; L.1933, p. 711.
7. L.1899, p. 280; L.1935, p. 995.
8. L.1917, p. 591.
9. L.1861, p. 226; R.S.1874, p. 1077.
10. L.1871-72, p. 575; R.S.1874, p. 721; L.1875, p. 88.
11. L.1905, p. 115.
12. L.1923, p. 480.
13. R.S.1874, p. 322.
14. L.1861, p. 238; R.S.1874, p. 322.
15. R.S.1874, p. 630.
16. Ibid., p. 321.

Taxation
(See also entries, 87[vi, xix, xx],
132, 134, 291[x], 311-326)

Lists of Taxable Property

25. TAX PAPERS (Levies), 1847--. 59 f.b.

Original township tax levies showing name of township, and amount, purpose, and date of levy. Arr. by date of levy. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 13 x 6 x 13 $\frac{1}{2}$. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

26. ASSESSOR'S BOOKS (Real Estate and Personal Property), 1858, 1896--. 1124 v. (Blount Township, 1858, 1896--. 55 v. Butler Township, 1896--. 53 v. Missing: 1865-73. Carroll Township, 1896--. 53 v. Missing: 1858-73. Catlin Township, 1896--. 54 v. Missing: 1858-73. Danville Township, 1858, 1896--. 217 v. Missing: 1859, 1860. Elwood Township, 1896--. 54 v. Missing: 1858-74. Georgetown Township, 1896--. 60 v. Missing: 1858-71. Grant Township, 1896--. 56 v. Missing: 1862-71. Jamaica Township, 1900--. 49 v. Missing: 1899. Love Township, 1903--. 45 v. Missing: 1902. McKendree Township, 1913--. 34 v. Middlefork Township, 1896--. 54 v. Missing: 1858-71. Newell Township, 1896--. 54 v. Missing: 1858-60. Oakwood Township, 1896--. 54 v. Pilot Township, 1896--. 53 v. Missing: 1858-73. Ross Township, 1896--. 57 v. Missing: 1858. Sidell Township, 1896--. 54 v. Missing: 1866. South Ross Township, 1928--. 14 v. Missing: 1927. Vance Township, 1896--. 54 v. Missing: 1858-73). 1829-57, 1859-95 in Assessor's and Collector's Books (Real Estate and Personal Property), entry 27.

Assessor's lists of taxable real estate and personal property, showing name of owner, description of property, assessed and equalized values, tax spread, and total tax. Real estate property arr. by sec., twp., and range; personal property arr. alph. by name of owner. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 75 - 200 p. 19 x 14 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 19 x 14 x 2. 1008 v., 1858, 1896-1935, common vlt., 5th fl.; 116 v., 1936--, supervisors' rm., 3rd fl.

27. ASSESSOR'S AND COLLECTOR'S BOOKS (Real Estate and Personal Property), 1829-96. 301 v. (Vermilion County, as a whole, 1829-49. 17 v. Missing: 1830, 1831, 1836, 1837, 1839, 1840, 1845, 1850. Carroll District, 1839. 1 v. Danville District, 1839-42, 1845, 1847. 10 v. Georgetown District, 1839-42, 1844-47, 1849. 12 v. Middlefork District, 1834, 1839. 2 v. Union District, 1839. 2 v. Vernon District, 1839. 1 v. Blount Township, 1857. 2 v. Carroll Township, 1851-57. 8 v. Missing: 1854, 1856. Danville Township, 1851-57. 8 v. Missing: 1854, 1856. Elwood Township, 1851-57. 5 v. Missing: 1854, 1856. Georgetown Township, 1851-57. 7 v. Missing: 1854, 1856.

Middlefork Township, 1851-57. 9 v. Missing: 1856.
Newell Township, 1851-57. 9 v. Missing: 1856.
Pilot Township, 1851-57. 6 v. Missing: 1851, 1856.
Ross Township, 1851-57. 9 v. Missing: 1856.
Vance Township, 1851-57. 8 v. Missing: 1856.
Rebound Assessor's and Collector's Books, 1859-96. 185 v.
Assessor's
Blount Township, 1859-95. Missing: 1860, 1864, 1866-70, 1872, 1873.
Butler Township, 1872-95. Missing: 1877-79, 1883, 1885.
Carroll Township, 1874-95. Missing: 1881-84, 1888.
Catlin Township, 1874-95.
Danville Township, 1861-95. Missing: 1862, 1864, 1865, 1867-70, 1882, 1884, 1890.
Elwood Township, 1875-95. Missing: 1881, 1882, 1884.
Georgetown Township, 1872-95.
Grant Township, 1872-95. Missing: 1875, 1885, 1887, 1891.
Middlefork Township, 1872-95. Missing: 1873, 1874, 1880, 1881, 1887.
Newell Township, 1861-95. Missing: 1865, 1869-71.
Oakwood Township, 1868-95. Missing: 1892.
Pilot Township, 1874-95. Missing: 1876, 1877, 1884-93.
Ross Township, 1859-95. Missing: 1861, 1864, 1867, 1868, 1890.
Sidell Township, 1867-95. Missing: 1870, 1872, 1893.
Vance Township, 1874-95. Missing: 1881.
Collector's
Blount Township, 1859-96. Missing: 1881.
Butler Township, 1865-96. Missing: 1873.
Carroll Township, 1859-96. Missing: 1880.
Catlin Township, 1859-96. Missing: 1862.
Danville Township, 1859-96.
Elwood Township, 1859-96. Missing: 1862.
Georgetown Township, 1859-96.
Grant Township, 1862-96.
Middlefork Township, 1859-96.
Newell Township, 1859-96.
Oakwood Township, 1868-96.
Pilot Township, 1859-96.
Ross Township, 1859-96.
Sidell Township, 1859-96.
Vance Township, 1859-96).

Lists of taxes assessed and collected on real estate and personal property, showing name of owner, description of property, assessed and equalized values, tax spread, date, and amounts paid and delinquent. Assessor's and collector's books for 1859-96 were rebound into 185 volumes. Each volume contains from three to seven original volumes and the indented portion of the title line under Rebound Assessor's and Collector's Books shows the breakdown on missing volumes. Also contains Railroad Tax Book, 1866-89, entry 29. During the year 1858 and subsequent to 1896, Assessor's Books (Real Estate and Personal Property), entry 26, and Collector's Books, entry 32, kept separately. Real estate arr. by sec., t-p., and range; personal property arr. alph. by name of owner. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 100 - 400 p. 6 x 8 x $\frac{1}{2}$ - 19 x 14 x 4. Common vlt., 5th fl.

28. ASSESSMENT OF RAILROAD PROPERTY, 1873--. 22 v.

List of taxes assessed on railroad property, showing name of company, description of property, tax rate, assessed and equalized values, tax spread, total tax levied, and date of assessment. Arr. by date of levy. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 130 p. 17 x 15 x 2. 18 v., 1873-1915, common vlt., 5th fl.; 4 v., 1916--, co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

29. RAILROAD TAX BOOK, 1890--. 11 v. (6, 1 not numbered, 2-10).

Missing: 1895-97. 1866-89 in Assessor's and Collector's Books (Real Estate and Personal Property), entry 27.

Assessor's list of taxable railroad property, showing name of railroad company, legal description of property, right of way, acreage, miles of track, rolling stock, declared and equalized values, rate, tax spread, and total tax. Arr. alph. by name of railroad. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 300 p. 17 x 15 x 2. V. 6, 1 not numbered, 2-7, 1890-1923, common vlt., 5th fl.; v. 8-10, 1924--, treas.'s off., 1st fl.

30. LISTS OF TAXABLE LANDS, 1829-49. 17 v. Missing: 1830-32, 1835-36, 1838, 1840, 1843-46.

Land listed for taxation, showing date, legal description and value of property, name of owner, tax spread, and total amount of tax. Arr. by date of levy. No index. Hdw. 10 - 100 p. 8 x 6 x $\frac{1}{2}$ - 9 x 12 x $1\frac{1}{2}$. Common vlt., 5th fl.

31. LIST OF LOTS LAID OFF, 1842-49. 3 v.

Lots listed for taxation in old town of Danville, showing name of owner, legal description and value of property, tax spread, date, total amount of tax, and remarks. Arr. by lot and block no. No index. Hdw. 75 p. 8 x 6 x 1. Common vlt., 5th fl.

Collections, Abatements

32. COLLECTOR'S BOOKS, 1858, 1897--. 934 v. (Blount Township, 1858, 1897--. 43 v.

Butler Township, 1897--. 42 v.

Carroll Township, 1858, 1897--. 43 v.

Catlin Township, 1858, 1897--. 43 v.

Danville Township, 1858, 1897--. 204 v.

Elwood Township, 1858, 1897--. 43 v.

Georgetown Township, 1897--. 62 v.

Grant Township, 1897--. 42 v.

Jamaica Township, 1900--. 39 v.

Love Township, 1903--. 36 v.

McKendree Township, 1913--. 26 v.

Middlefork Township, 1858, 1897--. 43 v.

Newell Township, 1858, 1897--. 43 v.

Oakwood Township, 1897--. 42 v.

Pilot Township, 1858, 1897--. 43 v.

Ross Township, 1858, 1897--. 43 v.

Sidell Township, 1897--. 42 v.

South Ross Township, 1927--. 12 v.
Vance Township, 1858, 1897--. 43 v.).

1829-57, 1859-96 in Assessor's and Collector's Books (Real Estate and Personal Property), entry 27.

Collector's lists of taxable real and personal property, showing names of owner and township, description of property, tax spread, date, and amounts collected and delinquent. Real estate arr. by sec., twp., and range; personal property arr. alph. by name of owner. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 75 - 200 p. 19 x 14 x $\frac{1}{2}$ - 19 x 14 x 2. 670 v., 1858, 1897-1927, common vlt., 5th fl.; 264 v., 1928--, treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

33. ERRORS, ABATEMENTS AND DOUBLE PAYMENT OF TAXES, 1902--. 34 v.
Lists of errors, abatements, and double payment of taxes, showing name and address of tax payer, date and amount of error, abatement or double payment of taxes, legal description of property, tax spread, and year, line, and page of entry in collector's book. Arr. alph. by name of twp. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 75 p. 14 x 8 x 1. Co. clk.'s off., 3rd fl.

34. DELINQUENT (Tax) BOOKS, 1878-1917. 425 v. 1918-- in Tax Judgment, Sale, Redemption, and Forfeiture Record, entry 36.
Lists of delinquent real estate and personal property taxes, showing name of owner, description and value of property, date and amount of tax due, rate of interest, and total amount delinquent. Arr. by due date. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 35 p. 17 x 14 x $\frac{1}{2}$. Common vlt., 5th fl.

35. SPECIAL DELINQUENT TAXES, 1892--. 111 v.
Lists of delinquent taxes on special assessments, showing names of city or village and owner, amount and type of assessment, and date due. Arr. by due date. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 100 p. 16 x 16 x 1. 98 v., 1892-1924, common vlt., 5th fl.; 8 v., 1925-32, treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.; 5 v., 1933--, treas.'s off., 1st fl.

Judgment, Sale, Redemption,
Forfeiture

36. TAX JUDGMENT, SALE, REDEMPTION, AND FORFEITURE RECORD, 1881--. 57 v.
Lists of tax judgments, sales, redemptions, and forfeitures, showing names of property owner and redeemer, legal description of property, amount of tax, costs, and interest due, dates of petition, redemption, and court order for sale, and amount and date of sale. Also contains Delinquent (Tax) Books, 1918--, entry 34. Prior to 1881, Tax Judgment Record, entry 37; Sale and Redemption Record, entry 38; and (Tax Forfeiture Record), entry 39, kept separately. Arr. by date of judgment. Indexed alph. by name of twp. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 700 p. 18 x 22 x 4. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

37. TAX JUDGMENT RECORD, 1841-80. 11 v. (2 not lettered, D-I, 3 not lettered). 1831-40 in Sale and Redemption Record, entry 38; 1881-- in Tax Judgment, Sale, Redemption, and Forfeiture Record, entry 36.

List of judgments for delinquent taxes on real estate, showing name of owner, legal description and value of property, amount of taxes, penalties, and costs due, and date of judgment. Arr. by date of judgment. No index. 1841-58, hdw.; 1859-80, hdw. under pr. hdgs. 250 p. 17 x 12 x 2. 2 v. not lettered, 1841-58, v. D, E, 1859-67, H, 1875-76, 2 not lettered, 1879-80, co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.; v. F, G, 1868-74, I, 1877, 1 not lettered, 1878, common vlt., 5th fl.

38. SALE AND REDEMPTION RECORD, 1831-80. 8 v. (1 not lettered, B-D, 2 not lettered, G, H). Title varies: Tax Sale Record, 1 v. not lettered, 1831-47, B-D, 1848-73. 1881-- in Tax Judgment, Sale, Redemption, and Forfeiture Record, entry 36.

Lists of tax sales and redemptions, showing legal description and value of property, name of purchaser or redeemer, tax and costs due, date and amount of sale, or date of redemption. Also contains Tax Judgment Record, 1831-40, entry 37, and (Tax Forfeiture Record), 1831-62, entry 39. Arr. by date of sale or redemption. 1831-77, no index; 1878-80, indexed alph. by name of twp. and addition. 1831-50, hdw.; 1851-80, hdw. under pr. hdgs. 300 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

39. (TAX FORFEITURE RECORD), 1863-80. 3 v. 1831-62 in Sale and Redemption Record, entry 38; 1881-- in Tax Judgment, Sale, Redemption, and Forfeiture Record, entry 36. Missing: 1863-71.

Lists of lands and town lots forfeited to state, showing names of owner and redeemer, legal description and value of property, amount of taxes, costs, and interest due, total, and dates of forfeiture and redemption. Arr. by date of forfeiture or redemption. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 200 p. 18 x 13 x 2. 1 v., 1872-75, co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.; 2 v., 1876-80, common vlt., 5th fl.

40. (Affidavits for) TAX DEEDS, 1866--. 12 f.b.

Original affidavits for tax deeds and duplicate tax purchase notices, showing names of purchaser and person assessed, legal description of property, dates of sale and affidavit, period of redemption, notice of publication, and acknowledgment. Also contains Scrap Book of Certificates of Purchase, 1866-1907, 1915--, entry 43. Arr. alph. by name of purchaser. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 10 x 4 x 14. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

For other tax purchase notices, see entry 291[x].

41. AFFIDAVIT FOR TAX DEED (Record), 1870--. 12 v. (A-L).

Copies of affidavits made for securing tax deeds, showing names of purchaser, collector, and owner, legal description of property, amount bid, total tax and costs due, certificate of publication, and dates of purchase, affidavit, and filing. Arr. by date of filing. Indexed alph. by name of purchaser. 1870-1914, hdw. on pr. fm.; 1915--, typed on pr. fm. 250 p. 18 x 13 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

County Clerk - Vital
Statistics

42. SALT LANDS, 1831-38. 1 v.

Record of salt land sales, showing receipt number, name and address of purchaser, legal description of lands, price per acre, and total amount and date of sale. Arr. by receipt no. No index. Hdw. 100 p. 15 x 7 x $\frac{1}{2}$. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

43. SCRAP BOOK OF CERTIFICATES OF PURCHASE, 1908-14. 7 v. 1866-1907, 1915-- in (Affidavits for) Tax Deeds, entry 40.

Original tax sale certificates of purchase, showing legal description of property, names of purchaser and person assessed, amount of delinquent tax, and date and amount of sale. Arr. by date of certificate. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 500 p. 18 x 13 x 6. Common vlt., 5th fl.

Maps and Plats

44. CLERK'S SUBDIVISIONS, 1896--. 2 f.b.

Plats of subdivisions of the city of Danville, compiled for the convenience of assessors, showing legal description of property within each subdivision, boundary lines, and date of plat. Author, county surveyor. Published in Vermilion County. No obvious arr. No index. Hand-drawn and hdw. 1 in. to 600 ft. - 1 in. to 200 ft. 10 x 5 x 14. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

45. SCHOOL MAPS, 1887-1930. 1 f.b.

Political maps of changes in school district used for taxation purposes, showing name and number of township, section number, description of school districts, date of maps, and certificate of correctness issued by school trustees. No obvious arr. No index. Hdw. and hand-drawn. Published in Danville, Illinois. 10 x 5 x 14. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

46. RECORD OF SCHOOL PLATS, 1869--. 2 v. (A, B).

Copies of plats of school districts used for taxation purposes, showing outline of school districts, district and township numbers, and date of plat. Arr. by date of plat. Indexed by twp. no. Hdw. and hand-drawn. 450 p. 18 x 13 x 3. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

Vital Statistics

Births (See also
entries 11, 327)

47. INDEX TO BIRTHS (and Stillbirths), 1877--. 7 v. (1-7).

Index to Certificates of Births, entry 49; Birth Record (Register), entry 50; Certificates of Stillbirths, entry 51; and Stillbirth Register, entry 52, showing names of parents and child, certificate number, book and page of entry, and date of birth. Arr. alph. by name of child. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 500 p. 18 x 14 x 3. Co. clk.'s off., 3rd fl.

48. CERTIFICATE OF BIRTHS, STILLBIRTHS, AND DEATHS, 1877-1915.
36 bdl.

Files of original birth, stillbirth, and death certificates, showing date of birth or death, name of child or deceased, statistical and personal particulars, names, addresses, occupations, and nativity of parents, name of physician, and date of filing. Subsequently kept as Certificates of Births, entry 49; Certificates of Stillbirths, entry 51; and Certificates of Death, entry 54. No obvious arr. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 12 x 8 x 4. Common vlt., 5th fl.

49. CERTIFICATES OF BIRTHS, 1916--. 57 v. 1877-1915 in Certificate of Births, Stillbirths, and Deaths, entry 48.

Original birth certificates, showing date and number of certificate, name, sex, and birthplace of child, name, age, occupation, nativity, and address of mother and father, number of children born to mother, name and address of attending physician or midwife, and date of filing. Arr. by certificate no. For index, see entry 47. Hdw. and typed on pr. fm. 600 p. 7 x 9 x 3. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

50. BIRTH RECORD (Register), 1877-1929. 17 v. (1-17).

Register of birth certificates, showing name, sex, and color of child, name, age, nativity, occupation, and address of mother and father, date and place of birth, names of physician or midwife, and person reporting birth, and date of filing. Arr. by date of certificate. For index, see entry 47. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 400 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

Stillbirths

51. CERTIFICATES OF STILLBIRTHS, 1916--. 1 v., 1 bdl., 1 f.b. 1877-1915 in Certificate of Births, Stillbirths, and Deaths, entry 48.

Original stillbirth certificates showing date and number of certificate, name, sex, and birthplace of child, name, age, occupation, nativity, and address of mother and father, number of children born to mother, name and address of attending physician or midwife, and date of filing. Arr. by certificate no. For index, see entry 47. Hdw. and typed on pr. fm. V. 600 p. 7 x 9 x 3; bdl. $6\frac{1}{2}$ x 8 x $2\frac{1}{2}$; f.b. 10 x 5 x 14. 1 v., 1 bdl., 1916-29, co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.; 1 f.b., 1930--, co. clk.'s off., 3rd fl.

52. STILLBIRTH REGISTER, 1878-1917. 1 v.

Register of stillbirths, showing date of report, name, sex, and color of child, place and date of birth, cause of death, and name, nativity, age, and occupation of mother and father, and names of medical attendant and person reporting stillbirth. Arr. by date of report. For index, see entry 47. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 157 p. 8 x 13 x $1\frac{1}{2}$. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

County Clerk - Vital
Statistics

Deaths (See also
entries 11, 327)

53. INDEX TO DEATH REGISTER, 1877--. 4 v. (1-4).
Index to Certificates of Death, entry 54, and Register of Deaths, entry 55, showing date and number of certificate, name of deceased, and book and page of entry. Arr. alph. by name of deceased. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 300 p. 16 x 12 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

54. CERTIFICATES OF DEATH, 1916--. 43 v. 1878-1915 in Certificate of Births, Stillbirths, and Deaths, entry 48.
Original death certificates showing date and number of certificate, name, age, sex, and address of deceased, date and place of birth, date, place, and cause of death, and name of attending physician. Arr. by certificate no. For index, see entry 53. Hdw. and typed on pr. fm. 600 p. 9 x 10 x 3. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

55. REGISTER OF DEATHS, 1877-1915. 11 v. (1-11).
Register of death reports, showing name, sex, age, date and place of birth, and address of deceased, certificate number, date, place, and cause of death, and name of attending physician. Arr. by certificate no. For index, see entry 53. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 320 p. 18 x 13 x 3. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

Marriages (See also
entry 87[i])

56. APPLICATION FOR MARRIAGE LICENSE, 1876--. 110 v. (1-4, 6-111).
Missing: October, 1879 - March, 1880.
Applications for marriage licenses, showing name, age, address, nationality, previous marital status, and names of parents of applicants, and date of application. Arr. by date of application. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 400 p. 15 x 10 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. V. 1-4, 6-79, 1876-1919, common vlt., 5th fl.; v. 80-111, 1920--, co. clk.'s off., 3rd fl.

57. MARRIAGE LICENSES, 1826--. 80 f.b., 7 v.
Original marriage license returns showing number and date of license, name, age, nativity, previous marital status, and address of bride and groom, names of witnesses, parents, and officiating person, and date and place of marriage. Also contains affidavits of age of applicants. Subsequent to 1930 these licenses are kept in loose-leaf volumes. Arr. by license no. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. F.b. 10 x 5 x 14; v. 500 p. 10 x 12 x 3 $\frac{1}{2}$. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

58. MARRIAGE REGISTER, 1826--. 15 v. (1 not labeled, 1826-52; A, B, D, 1-11, 1826--).
Register of marriage licenses, showing date and number of license, names and addresses of bride, groom, and parents, occupation of groom, names of officiating party and witnesses, and dates of return and registration. 1 volume not labeled, 1826-52 has been transcribed in volume A. Arr. by license no. For index, see entry 59. 1826-52, hdw.; 1826--, hdw. under pr. hdgs. 300 p. 18 x 13 x 3. 1 v. not labeled, v. A, B, D, 1-10, 1826-1931, co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.; v. 11, 1932--, co. clk.'s off., 3rd fl.

59. INDEX TO MARRIAGES MALE - FEMALE, 1826--. 16 v. (1-8, male;
1-8, female).

Index to Marriage Register, entry 58, showing names of bride and groom, date of license, and book and page of entry. Arr. alph. by names of male and female. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 350 p. 16 x 12 x 2. Co. clk.'s off., 3rd fl.

Licenses and Registers

Register of Officers

60. REGISTER COMMISSIONS, 1856--. 3 v. (1 not numbered, 1856-88;
1, 2, 1856--).

Register of commissions of county officers, showing name of officer, date and amount of bond, and title and term of office. 1 volume not numbered, 1856-88, transcribed into volume 1. Arr. by date of commission. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 280 p. 18 x 13 x 2. 1 v. not numbered, 1856-88, co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.; v. 1, 2, 1856--, co. clk.'s off., 3rd fl.

61. LIST OF TOWNSHIP OFFICERS, 1909-30. 1 f.b. 1931-- in Deputies' Oaths, entry 80.

Lists of elected township officials, showing name of official, title and term of office, and date of election. Arr. alph. by name of twp. No index. Hdw., typed, and hdw. under pr. hdgs. 14 x 4 x 16. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

Professional Licenses and Registers

62. RECORD OF PHYSICIANS' CERTIFICATES, 1877--. 5 v. (1-5).

Copies of certificates of physicians and osteopaths, certificates of optometrists, 1915--, and chiropodists, 1917--, showing name of practitioner, school of attendance, dates of graduation, certificate, and filing, and signatures of members of board. Also contains (Nurses' Certificates), 1911--, entry 66. Arr. by date of filing. Indexed alph. by name of practitioner. Hdw. on pr. fm. 290 p. 18 x 15 x 2. Co. clk.'s off., 3rd fl.

63. REGISTER OF PHYSICIANS AND ACCOUCHEURS, 1877-1909. 2 v.

Register of physicians' and accoucheurs' certificates, showing name, age, nativity, years of practice, and address of physician or accoucheur, schools attended, dates of attendance, registration, and filing, and remarks. Arr. alph. by name of physician or accoucheur. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 250 p. 18 x 13 x 2. 1 v., 1879, common vlt., 5th fl.; 1 v., 1877-78, 1880-1909, co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

64. DENTISTS' CERTIFICATES, 1882--. 1 v. Last entry 1905.

Copies of dentists' certificates issued by State Board of Health, showing name and address of dentist, school of graduation, and dates of certificate and filing. Arr. by date of filing. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 200 p. 18 x 13 x 2. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

County Clerk - Licenses
and Registers

65. REGISTER OF VETERINARY SURGERY, 1900--. 1 v. Last entry 1932. Copies of veterinary surgeon certificates issued by state board of live-stock commissioners, showing name of applicant, school and date of at-tendance, place of practice, and dates of certificate and filing. Arr. by date of filing. Indexed alph. by name of applicant. Hdw. on pr. fm. 300 p. 18 x 13 x 2. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

66. (NURSES' CERTIFICATES), 1909--. 1909-10 in Miscellaneous Record, entry 88; 1911-- in Record of Physicians' Certificates, entry 62. Copies of nurses' licenses, showing names of nurse and members of board of examiners, schools of attendance, and dates of registration and filing. Hdw. on pr. fm.

67. (ARCHITECTS' CERTIFICATES), 1897-1913. 1 v. Copies of architects' certificates issued by state board of examiners, showing name and address of architect, experience, and dates of certifi-cate and filing. Arr. by date of filing. Indexed alph. by name of archi-tect. Hdw. on pr. fm. 300 p. 18 x 13 x 2. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

For subsequent lists of certificates, see entry 88[i].

68. REGISTER OF QUALIFIED MINERS, 1908-13. 1 v. Register of applications for certificates of competency to mine coal, showing name and address of applicant, application number, and date. Arr. alph. by name of applicant. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 200 p. 10 x 15 x 3. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

Stallion Certificates (See
also entry 124)

69. (STOCK CERTIFICATES), 1888-1908. In (Miscellaneous Papers), entry 87. Copies of certificates of pedigreed stock, showing name of secretary of state, name and address of owner, date and number of certificate, condi-tion of service, and date of expiration of certificate.

Estrays, Marks and
Brands (See also entries
87[liii,viii], 88[ii])

70. ESTRAY RECORD, 1853-1927. 1 v. Record of estrayed livestock, showing description of animal, date, place, and name of party finding estray, appraised value by justice court, and amount of costs. Arr. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. 300 p. 16 x 12 x 2. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

71. RECORD OF EAR MARKS, 1826--. 1 v. Last entry 1932. Record of marks and brands used to identify livestock, showing name of owner, written description and drawing of mark or brand, and date of recording. Arr. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. 100 p. 12 x 8 x $\frac{1}{2}$. Co. clk.'s off., 3rd fl.

County Clerk - Election;
Bonds of Officers

Tavern Licenses

72. LIQUOR LICENSE, 1934--. 1 f.b.

Applications for licenses to sell alcoholic beverages, showing name of applicant, location of business, and dates of application and issuance of license. Arr. by date of application. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 13 x 6 x 13 $\frac{1}{2}$. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

Elections
(See also entry 390[v-viii])

73. ELECTION PAPERS, 1872--. 11 bdl., 7 f.b.

Files of election papers, including reports of elections, poll books, petitions for payment of election expense, and orders for special elections. Arr. by date of filing. No index. Hdw., hdw. on pr. fm., and typed. Bdl. 14 x 14 x 11; f.b. 10 x 4 x 14. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

74. BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS' RECORD, 1909--. 2 v. (1, 2).

1826-1908 in Supervisors' Record, entry 2.

Record of proceedings of board of election commissioners, showing itemized accounts of election expenses, establishment of election polls, appointment of judges and clerks, and dates of elections. Arr. by date of filing. No index. Hdw. 595 p. 18 x 13 x 3. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

75. CANVASS OF VOTES, 1918--. 56 pamphlets.

Abstracts of votes in primary, general, and special elections, showing names of candidates, number of votes received in each precinct, number of precinct, and total number of votes cast. Arr. by precinct no. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 6 p. 36 x 18 x $\frac{1}{2}$. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

76. ELECTION NOTICES, 1914-18. 1 f.b.

Notices of election of township and village treasurers, showing date of election, name and address of treasurer, and name of township or village. Arr. by date of election. No index. Hdw. and typed. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 14. Treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

Bonds of Officers
(See also entries 120, 121, 276, 277)

77. BONDS (Officials), 1876--. 10 f.b.

County clerk's files of official bonds including those of superintendent of county home, 1918--; city and village commissioners, 1927--; mayor of Danville, 1927--; superintendent of schools, 1882--; county treasurer, 1890--; drainage district treasurers, 1907--; election commissioners, 1909--; state's attorney, 1936--; supervisors of assessments, 1898--; supervisors of road and bridge fund, 1914--; constables, 1877--; coroner, 1888--; auditor, 1928--; truant officers, 1921--; county clerk, 1886-1906; township assessors, 1899--; township collectors, 1880-1916; sheriff, 1890--; police magistrates, 1876-1934; recorder, 1936--; and justices of the peace, 1877--, showing names of official and sureties, date and amount of bond, date of filing, and term of office. No obvious arr. No index. Hdw., hdw. on pr. fm., typed, and typed on pr. fm. 10 x 5 x 14. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

County Clerk - Oaths of County
Officers; Fees, Receipts and
Expenditures

78. JUSTICE OF PEACE, CONSTABLE'S AND POLICE MAGISTRATE BONDS,
1885--. 5 f.b.

Original bonds of justices of the peace, constables, and police magistrates, showing names of principal, township, and sureties, date, amount, and obligations of bond, and dates of filing. No obvious arr. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 10 x 5 x 14. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

For prior bonds of justices of the peace, constables, and police magistrates, see entry 77.

79. ASSESSORS' BOND RECORD, 1899--. 2 v. (1, 2).

Copies of township assessors' bonds, showing names of assessor and sureties, and date, amount, and obligations of bond. Arr. by date of bond. Indexed alph. by name of assessor. Hdw. on pr. fm. 300 p. 18 x 13 x 2. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

Oaths of County Officers

80. DEPUTIES' OATHS, 1875--. 3 f.b.

Oaths of deputy sheriffs, showing names of deputy sheriff and clerk, and dates of oath and appointment. Also contains List of Township Officers, 1931--, entry 61. Arr. by date of oath. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 14 x 4 x 16. 2 f.b., 1875-1929, co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.; 1 f.b., 1930--, co. clk.'s off., 3rd fl.

81. (Record of Deputy Officials' Appointments and Oaths) JUDGMENT
DOCKET, 1853-57, 1860--. 1 v.

Copies of appointments and oaths of deputy county officers, 1860--, showing name of deputy, dates of appointment and oath, and oath of office by deputy. Also contains Judgment Docket, 1853-57, entry 264. Arr. by date of oath. 1853-57, indexed alph. by name of plaintiff; 1860--, indexed alph. by name of deputy. 1853-57, hdw. under pr. hdgs.; 1860--, hdw. 500 p. 16 x 12 x 3. Rec.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

Fees, Receipts and Expenditures

82. CASH BOOK, 1826--. 4 v., 2 bdl. Missing: 1870-1914. Title
varies: Receipts and Expenses, 2 v., 1826-69; Cash Sheets, 2 bdl.,
1915-29.

County clerk's record of cash receipts and disbursements, showing date and amount of receipts and disbursements, purpose, and name of payer or payee. Arr. by date of receipt or disbursement. No index. 1826-69, hdw.; 1915--, hdw. under pr. hdgs. V. 100 - 200 p. 13 x 8 x 1 - 15 x 18 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$; bdl. 14 x 12 x 1. 2 v., 2 bdl., 1826-53, 1915-29, co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.; 1 v., 1854-69, common vlt., 5th fl.; 1 v., 1930--, co. clk.'s off., 3rd fl.

83. COUNTY CLERK'S LEDGER, 1923--. 2 v.

Ledger of accounts of county funds, showing title of account, date, purpose, and amount of debits and credits, and total amount of debits and credits. Arr. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 100 p. 12 x 15 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. Co. clk.'s off., 3rd fl.

84. REGISTER OF FEES, 1879-1916. 9 v.

Lists of fees received by county clerk, showing date, amount, purpose of payment, and name of payer. Arr. by date of receipt. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 324 p. 17 x 14 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. 2 v., 1879-90, common vlt., 5th fl.; 7 v., 1891-1916, co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

85. ORDERS TO PAY COUNTY TREASURER, 1920--. 3 v.

Duplicate receipts for funds received by county treasurer from orders issued by county clerk, showing amount, date, and purpose of payment, and name of payee. Binding and paper poor. Arr. by date of receipt. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 200 p. 13 x 10 x 2. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

86. COUNTY CLERK'S CHECKS, 1926-33. 3 f.b. 1934-- in Cancelled County Orders and Jury Certificates, entry 7.

Cancelled checks returned to county clerk, showing date, name of payee, amount and purpose of check, and date of cancellation. Arr. by date of check. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 24 x 5 x 10. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

Miscellaneous Records

87. (MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS), 1851--. 9 f.b. (1 f.b., 1851-1925; 8 f.b., 1858--).

Miscellaneous documents from various offices filed with or kept by the county clerk, including:

- i. Affidavits proving age of applicants for marriage licenses, 1871, showing signatures and ages of bride and groom, dates of affidavit and filing, and signature of clerk.
- ii. Affidavits of witnesses in county court cases, 1860, 1862, 1871, 1873, 1879, 1882, showing date and number of affidavit, names of witnesses, plaintiff, and defendant, and number of days of service, mileage, and total amount due.
- iii. Applications for trade-marks, 1902-3, showing name of firm or owner, type and location of firm or business, drawing of trademark, and dates of application and filing.
- iv. Certificates of publication, 1930--, showing type and date of publication notice, name of paper, and signature of editor.
- v. Certificates of transfer of ownership of swamp land from Federal to state and county governments, 1856-76, showing date, legal description of land, consideration, and date of filing.
- vi. Complaints filed with board of review, 1898, showing name of complainant, legal description of property, assessed valuation, cause of complaint, and date of filing.
- vii. County court common law and criminal case papers, 1860-83, including summonses, subpoenas, warrants, executions, complaints, jury verdicts, and court decrees.
- viii. Estray notices, 1873-1925, showing name of owner, kind and description of animal, dates of finding and return, name of finder, and amount of claim.
- ix. Insanity case papers, 1877, and case papers for feeble-minded, showing names of petitioner, incompetent, and sheriff, cause of complaint, and dates of petition, warrant, filing, and hearing.

- x. Oaths of persons officiating for registration for World War draft, 1917, showing precinct number, signature of registrar, name of city or township, acknowledgment, and date of oath.
- xi. Petit jury lists, 1915-21, showing date of court term, case number, and name and address of juror.
- xii. Proposals for redecorating and installing elevators in court-house, 1912, showing date and by whom proposal was submitted, type of proposal, specifications, explanation as to the installing and operating, and date of filing.
- xiii. Power of attorney to sell patent rights, 1869, showing names of persons granting and receiving power of attorney, nature of patent rights, acknowledgment, and dates of affidavit and filing.
- xiv. Reports of county officers to board of supervisors, 1873, 1878, showing items of receipts and disbursements for each office.
- xv. Reports of coal miners' examining board to the county board, 1912, showing date, number applying for certificate, number taking examination, number of failures, date, amount, and purpose of receipts and expenditures, total amount of receipts and expenditures, balance available, and total number of certificates issued.
- xvi. Report to the county board by township organization committee on township boundary lines, 1851, showing names of commissioners, dates of appointment, report, and filing, and name and legal description of each township.
- xvii. Reports of justices of the peace to county clerk of fines, penalties, and forfeitures, 1911-14, showing name of defendant, date of court term, amounts of fines, penalties or forfeitures collected, and dates of payment.
- xviii. Resignation notices of justices of the peace, police magistrates, and constables, 1916, showing name, dates of resignation and notice, and name of office.
- xix. Special assessment papers for sidewalks, 1876-77, including petition for assessment, certificates of publication, certificates of notice sent to home owners, special assessment rolls, and orders of court.
- xx. Taxes, list of, paid on lands and lots before execution of judgment, 1871, 1874-76, 1883, showing name of owner, legal description of property, amounts of taxes and costs, and date of payment.

Also contains (Contracts and Bids), 1902-17, entry 14; (Stock Certificates), 1888-1908, entry 69; (Adoption Papers), 1911, entry 133; Juvenile Files, 1875-1906, entry 170; and (Road Plats), 1879-1906, entry 392. No obvious arr. No index. Nature of recording varies. 10 x 5 x 14 - 12 x 4 x 6. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

88. MISCELLANEOUS RECORD, 1902-16. 1 v.

County clerk's record of miscellaneous instruments including:

1. Architects' licenses, 1914-16, showing name and address of architect, provisions for practice of profession as issued and attested by state board of examiners, date of license, and signatures of officials.

- ii. Marks and brands, 1902-3, lists of, showing a reproduction of the mark or brand, use for same, date of filing, and name and address of owner.
- iii. Partnership agreements, 1902, showing names and addresses of partners, particulars of contract of agreement, date and notarization.
- iv. Trustees' report of merchandise sold by mercantile company, 1915, with inventory of goods on hand.
- v. Widows' relinquishments, 1902, showing names of estate, widow, appraiser, executor, judge and clerk, itemized list of relinquishments, and date of document.

Also contains (Nurses' Certificates), 1909-10, entry 66. Arr. by date of instrument. Indexed alph. by name of principal. Hdw. 290 p. 18 x 13 x 2. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

For prior and subsequent records of widows' relinquishments, see entry 192.

III. RECORDER

The recorder of Vermilion County was originally appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the senate.¹ His bond, set at \$1,500, was to be filed with the Secretary of State. In 1829 the amount of his bond was reduced to \$500.² The office became elective in 1835, for a four-year term, and a bond was to be approved by the county commissioners' court.³ A two-year term became effective in 1847.⁴ With the adoption of the second constitution the office of recorder was abolished, the duties of that office being delegated to the circuit court clerk in an ex-officio capacity.⁵ The present constitution reestablished the office of recorder in counties having a population of sixty thousand or more but continued the provision of the prior constitution for other counties.⁶ The population of Vermilion County reached the minimum set by the constitution in 1900, and accordingly, a recorder was elected in the same year.⁷ The amount of the recorder's bond was

1. L.1819, p. 19.

2. R.L.1829, p. 117.

3. L.1835, p. 166.

4. L.1845, p. 28. Effective in 1847.

5. Constitution of 1848, Art. V, sec. 19; L.1849, p. 64.

6. Constitution of 1870, Art. X, sec. 8; R.S.1874, p. 833.

7. Fifteenth Census of the United States: 1930 shows population of Vermilion County 65,635 in 1900. Population Bulletin, p. 9.

Recorder

set at \$5,000 in 1872, and the county judge was to give approval.¹ This amount was raised in 1874 to \$20,000 for counties having the population of Vermilion. A copy of the bond is entered upon the records of the county court.²

Assistants and deputies are appointed by the recorder in a number as determined by rule of the circuit court and as entered upon the court record.³ The compensation of the assistants and deputies is set by the county board.⁴ Written oaths of deputies are filed with the Secretary of State.⁵

In accordance with the duty of the recorder to record at length all written instruments, the following records are required to be kept:

1. An entry book in which data relating to date and order of receipt of instruments to be recorded or filed, and the names of parties and location of property, with a brief description of the premises, are entered. Each of such instruments is numbered by the recorder with the corresponding number of the entry. The entry book serves as a table of contents, with descriptive memoranda, for all instruments recorded at length or filed in the recorder's office.
2. Well-bound books for recording at length any instrument in writing entitled to be recorded, in the order of time of its reception. Separate books are allowed to be kept for the recording of different classes of instruments and two distinct series of document numbers may be used in recording documents received for recordation. One series preceded by the letter "B" is for the recordation of bills of sales of personal property, chattel mortgages, releases, extensions, and assignments thereof. The other series of document numbers is for all other instruments received for recordation.
3. Grantor and grantee indexes. In the grantor index are listed the names of the grantors in alphabetical order and the names of the grantees. The grantee index shows the names of the grantees in alphabetical order and the names of the grantors. Each index also shows the date of the instrument, time of receipt, kind of instrument, consideration, book and page of recordation, or the number under which it is filed, and a brief description of the premises.

1. L.1871-72, p. 645.

2. R.S.1874, p. 833.

3. Constitution of 1870, Art. X, sec. 9; R.S.1874, p. 833.

4. Constitution of 1870, Art. X, sec. 9.

5. R.S.1874, p. 833.

4. Indexes to each book of record in which are entered in alphabetical order, the names of each grantor and grantee and page on which the instrument is recorded. This series indexes instruments such as powers of attorney, chattel mortgages, and those recorded by corporations.
5. An index to recorded maps and plats, based on location of property, sometimes arranged by section, township, and range.
6. An abstract book, in effect indexing records by showing for each tract every conveyance or incumbrance recorded, its execution and filing date, and the book and page of its recordation. Series optional with county board.
7. A separate book to record certificates of honorable discharge from military, aviation, and naval service.¹

The recorder, in recording at length any instrument in writing, is permitted to make a handwritten or typewritten transcription, a photographic or photostatic reproduction, or use a combination of these methods.² In addition to the instruments received for recordation, the recorder is required, upon receipt, to file any mortgage, trust deed, or conveyance of personal property having the effect of a mortgage or lien upon such property which is endorsed with the words, "This instrument to be filed, but not recorded." The recorder marks such instruments "filed" and enters the time of their receipt and files them in his office.³

Entry Books

89. ENTRY BOOK, 1838--. 68 v. (1 not lettered, B, 66 not lettered).
Missing: 1851-55, 1863.

List of instruments filed for recordation, showing dates of receipt and recording, name and address of person filing, names of grantor and grantee, entry number, legal description of property, type of instrument, and book and page of entry. Also contains Deed Entry Book, 1838-86, entry 90. Arr. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 400 p. 18 x 13 x 3 $\frac{1}{2}$. Rec.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

1. L.1819, p. 18,20,21; R.L.1829, p. 116,117; L.1847, p. 69; L.1853, p. 254; L.1867, p. 148; L.1869, p. 2; L.1871-72, p. 645,646; L.1873, p. 144; R.S.1874, p. 834-37; L.1917, p. 652; L.1925, p. 521; L.1933-34, Third Sp. Sess., p. 214.
2. L.1933-34, Third Sp. Sess., p. 214.
3. L.1927, p. 521; L.1929, p. 592-94; L.1933, p. 860.

Recorder - Instruments
Recorded

90. DEED ENTRY BOOK, 1887--. 49 v. 1838-86 in Entry Book, entry 89. List of deeds filed for recordation, showing names of grantor and grantee, type and date of deed, legal description of property, book and page of entry, date of recording, and number of instrument. Arr. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 400 p. 18 x 13 x 3. Rec.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

91. ORIGINAL ENTRY BOOK (Land Patents), 1833-64. 1 v. Land entry book showing name of patentee, legal description of property, number of acres, and date of grant. Arr. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 600 p. 18 x 13 x 3. Rec.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

Instruments Recorded

General

92. INDEX TO DEEDS GRANTOR - GRANTEE, 1826--. 58 v. (29 v. grantor; 29 v. grantee).

Index to Deeds (and Other Instruments), entry 97; Miscellaneous Deeds (and Other Instruments), entry 98; Quitclaim Deeds, entry 99; Master's Deeds, entry 100; Warranty Deeds, entry 101; Sheriff's Deeds, entry 102; and Cemetery Deeds, entry 103, showing names of grantor and grantee, kind and date of instrument, legal description of property, date of filing, consideration, and book and page of entry. Arr. alph. by name of grantor and grantee. Typed under pr. hdgs. 400 p. 18 x 12 x 2. Rec.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

93. GENERAL INDEX GRANTOR - GRANTEE, 1826-1927. 134 v. (25 not numbered, 5-15, 41 not numbered, grantor; 1-15, 42 not numbered, grantee).

General index to Deeds (and Other Instruments), entry 97; Miscellaneous Deeds (and Other Instruments), entry 98; Quitclaim Deeds, entry 99; Master's Deeds, entry 100; Warranty Deeds, entry 101; Sheriff's Deeds, entry 102; and Cemetery Deeds, entry 103, showing names of grantor and grantee, type and date of instrument, consideration, legal description of property, and book and page of entry. This index has been transcribed into Index to Deeds Grantor - Grantee, entry 92. Arr. alph. by names of grantor and grantee. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 300 p. 18 x 13 x 3. Rec.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

94. INDEX TO PLATS, 1826--. 2 v. (1 v. 1826-1937; 1 v. 1826--).

Index to plats and clerks' subdivisions recorded in Deeds (and Other Instruments), entry 97, and Plat Record, entry 126, showing name of town, subdivision, legal description of property, and book and page of entry. Original volume, 1826-1937, transcribed into new volume. Arr. alph. by name of town or village. Typed under pr. hdgs. 600 p. 18 x 13 x 3. Rec.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

95. INDEX TO PLATS AND CLERKS' SUBDIVISIONS, 1826-1921. 1 v.

Index to plats and clerks' subdivisions recorded in Deeds (and Other Instruments), entry 97, and Plat Record, entry 126, showing title of plat, name of addition or subdivision, and book and page of entry. Transcribed into Index to Plats, entry 94. Arr. alph. by name of addition or subdivision. Hdw. 400 p. 15 x 13 x 2. Rec.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

96. UNCALLED FOR DOCUMENTS, 1825--. 103 f.b.

Instruments left for recordation and not called for, including bills of sale, releases, certificates of redemption, powers of attorney, deeds, articles of incorporation, and mortgages. 1830-1932, arr. by date of instrument; 1933--, arr. alph. by name of principal. No index. 1830-50, hdw.; 1851--, hdw. and hdw. on pr. fm. 11 x 4 x 12 - 6 x 18 x 36. 5 f.b., 1825-1932, common vlt., 5th fl.; 98 f.b., 1933--, rec.'s off., 2nd fl.

97. DEEDS (and Other Instruments), 1826--. 113 v. (A-V, X, Y, 2-422 not consecutive).

Copies of deeds not segregated by types, including receivers', executors', trustees', dedication, and tax deeds, showing names of grantor and grantee, consideration, legal description of property, terms and date of deed, acknowledgment, and dates of filing and recording. Also contains Miscellaneous Deeds (and Other Instruments), 1826-74, 1914--, entry 98; Quitclaim Deeds, 1826-63, entry 99; Master's Deeds, 1826-81, 1923--, entry 100; Warranty Deeds, 1826-56, entry 101; Sheriff's Deeds, 1826-69, entry 102; Cemetery Deeds, 1826-65, 1935--, entry 103; Mortgage Records, 1826-57, entry 104, including Release Record, entry 107; Chattel Mortgage Record, entry 109; Certificate Levy, Sale, and Redemption (Sheriffs' and Masters'), 1920--, entry 114, including Redemption Record, 1920--, entry 117; and Plat Record, 1826-78, entry 126. Arr. by date of recording. Indexed alph. by name of grantor; for sep. index, see entry 92; for additional index, 1826-1927, see entry 93; for index to plats, see entry 94; for additional index to plats, 1826-1921, see entry 95. 1826-1913, hdw. on pr. fm.; 1914--, typed on pr. fm. 600 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Rec.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

98. MISCELLANEOUS DEEDS (and Other Instruments), 1875-1913. 33 v. (49-254 not consecutive). 1826-74, 1914-- in Deeds (and Other Instruments), entry 97.

Copies of miscellaneous deeds and other instruments, including deeds that do not fit printed forms, agreements, certificates of elections, bills of sale, and affidavits, showing date, number, and type of instrument, names of grantor and grantee, and dates of recording and filing. Also contains Sheriff's Deeds, 1879-87, entry 102. Arr. by date of recording. Indexed alph. by name of grantor; for sep. indexes, see entries 92, 93. Hdw. 600 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Rec.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

Recorder - Instruments

Recorded

Deeds (See also entries
90, 96, 390[iv])

99. QUITCLAIM DEEDS, 1864--. 58 v. (9-423 not consecutive). 1826-63 in Deeds (and Other Instruments), entry 97.

Copies of quitclaim deeds, showing names of grantor and grantee, legal description of property, consideration, date and number of instrument, acknowledgment, and dates of filing and recording. Arr. by date of recording. Indexed alph. by name of grantor; for sep. index, see entry 92; for additional index, 1864-1927, see entry 93. 1864-1934, hdw. on pr. fm.; 1935--, typed on pr. fm. 600 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Rec.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

100. MASTER'S DEEDS, 1882-1922. 4 v. (71, 139, 216, 269). 1826-81, 1923-- in Deeds (and Other Instruments), entry 97.

Copies of master-in-chancery deeds, showing names of plaintiff, defendant, and master in chancery, dates of decree and sale, amount of sale, legal description of property, number and date of instrument, signature of master, acknowledgment, and dates of filing and recording. Arr. by date of recording. Indexed alph. by name of grantee; for sep. indexes, see entries 92, 93. Hdw. on pr. fm. 600 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Rec.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

101. WARRANTY DEEDS, 1857--. 235 v. (W, Z, 1-419 not consecutive). 1826-56 in Deeds (and Other Instruments), entry 97.

Copies of warranty deeds, showing names of grantor and grantee, consideration, legal description of property, number and date of instrument, acknowledgment, and dates of recording and filing. Arr. by date of recording. Indexed alph. by name of grantor; for sep. index, see entry 92; for additional index, 1857-1927, see entry 93. 1857-1934, hdw. on pr. fm.; 1935--, typed on pr. fm. 600 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Rec.'s vlt.. 2nd fl.

102. SHERIFF'S DEEDS, 1870-78, 1888--. 2 v. (25, 102). 1826-69 in Deeds (and Other Instruments), entry 97; 1879-87 in Miscellaneous Deeds (and Other Instruments), entry 98.

Copies of sheriff's deeds issued to parties recovering judgment, showing date and amount of judgment, dates of execution and sale by sheriff, legal description of property, amount of sale, names of sheriff and purchaser, acknowledgment, and dates of recording and filing. Arr. by date of recording. Indexed alph. by name of purchaser; for sep. index, see entry 92; for additional index, 1870-78, 1888-1927, see entry 93. Hdw. on pr. fm. 450 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Rec.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

103. CEMETERY DEEDS, 1866-1934. 4 v. (14, 118, 119, 213). 1826-65, 1935-- in Deeds (and Other Instruments), entry 97.

Copies of deeds to cemetery lots, showing names of grantor and grantee, location of lot, entry book and page of lot record, consideration, date, and number of instrument, acknowledgment, and dates of filing and recording. Arr. by date of recording. Indexed alph. by name of grantee; for sep. index, see entry 92; for additional index, 1866-1927, see entry 93. Hdw. on pr. fm. 600 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Rec.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

Recorder - Instruments
Recorded

Mortgages - Real Property (See
also entries 96, 390[xiii])

104. MORTGAGE RECORDS, 1858--. 320 v. (1-352 not consecutive).

1826-57 in Deeds (and Other Instruments), entry 97.

Recordation of real estate mortgages, including marginal releases, showing names of mortgagor and mortgagee, date and number of instrument, legal description of property, amount of mortgage, stipulations, acknowledgment, and dates of filing and recording. Also contains Release Record, 1858-71, entry 107, and Chattel Mortgage Record, 1858-67, entry 109, Arr. by date of recording. Indexed alph. by name of mortgagor; for sep. index, 1874--, see entry 105; for index to marginal releases, 1905--, see entry 106. 1858-1932, hdw. and hdw. on pr. fm.; 1933--, hdw. and typed on pr. fm. 600 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Rec.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

105. MORTGAGE INDEX - MORTGAGOR-MORTGAGEE, 1874--. 94 v. (47 v.
mortgagor; 47 v. mortgagee).

Index to Mortgage Records, entry 104, showing names of mortgagor and mortgagee, type, number, and date of instrument, legal description of property, date of filing, and book and page of entry. Arr. alph. by names of mortgagor and mortgagee. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 300 p. 18 x 13 x 3. Rec.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

106. INDEX MARGINAL RELEASES, 1905--. 2 v. (1, 2).

Index to marginal releases entered in Mortgage Records, entry 104, showing dates of mortgage and release, names of mortgagor, mortgagee, and releasor, and book and page of entry. Arr. alph. by name of releasor. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 300 p. 18 x 13 x 3. Rec.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

107. RELEASE RECORD, 1872--. 32 v. (18-347 not consecutive).

1826-57 in Deeds (and Other Instruments), entry 97; 1858-71 in
Mortgage Records, entry 104.

Copies of releases, showing names of mortgagor and mortgagee, consideration, date and number of instrument, dates of release and recording, book and page of entry, and acknowledgment. Arr. by date of recording. Indexed alph. by names of mortgagor and mortgagee. 1872-1934, hdw.; 1935--, typed on pr. fm. 600 p. 18 x 13 x 3. Rec.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

Mortgages - Chattel

108. CHATTEL MORTGAGES AND RELEASES, 1935--. 5 f.b.

Original chattel mortgages and chattel mortgage releases filed with recorder but not recorded, showing names of mortgagor and mortgagee, date, amount, and terms of mortgage, itemized list of chattel property, dates of release and filing, and acknowledgment. Arr. by date of filing. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 10 x 5 x 14. Rec.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

Recorder - Instruments
Recorded

109. CHATTEL MORTGAGE RECORD, 1868--. 194 v. (1-194). 1826-57 in Deeds (and Other Instruments), entry 97; 1858-67 in Mortgage Records, entry 104.

Copies of chattel mortgages and extensions, including liens on automobiles, showing names of mortgagor and mortgagee, description of property, date, amount, and number of mortgage, and dates of filing, recording, and acknowledgment. Arr. by date of recording. Indexed alph. by name of mortgagor; for sep. index, 1894--, see entry 110; for index to liens, 1921-32, see entry 111. Hdw. and typed on pr. fm. 300 p. 18 x 13 x 2. Rec.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

110. CHATTEL MORTGAGE INDEX, 1894--. 34 v. (1-4, 13 not numbered, mortgagor; 1-4, 13 not numbered, mortgagee).

Index to Chattel Mortgage Record, entry 109, showing names of mortgagor and mortgagee, kind and date of instrument, description of property, and book and page of entry. Arr. alph. by names of mortgagor and mortgagee. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 300 p. 18 x 13 x 3. Rec.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

111. INDEX OF LIENS ON CHATTELS, 1921-32. 1 v.

Index to liens on automobiles recorded in Chattel Mortgage Record, entry 109, showing names of owner and person filing lien, description of car, date of lien, and chattel mortgage record book and page of entry. Arr. alph. by name of owner. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 100 p. 18 x 12 x 1. Rec.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

Certificates of Levy (See
also entry 291[viii,x])

112. SHERIFF'S CERTIFICATES OF LEVY, SALE, AND REDEMPTION, 1870--. 1 v. (C).

Copies of sheriff's certificates of levy, sale, and redemption, showing names of plaintiff, defendant, purchaser, redeemer, and sheriff, type of writ, date of levy, legal description of property, date and amount of sale, and dates of filing and recording. Arr. by date of recording. Indexed alph. by name of defendant. Hdw. on pr. fm. 600 p. 18 x 13 x 3. Rec.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

For prior records of certificates of levy, see entry 115; for prior records of certificates of sale and redemption, see entry 116.

113. MASTER'S CERTIFICATE OF SALE AND REDEMPTION - MASTER'S CERTIFICATE OF SALE, 1870--. 2 v. (A, B). 1856-69 in Sale (and Redemption) Record (Master's and Sheriff's), entry 116.

Copies of master's certificates of sale and redemption, showing names of sheriff, plaintiff, and defendant, date and amount of judgment, court costs, legal description of property, date, place, and amount of sale, name of purchaser, and dates of redemption, filing, and recording. Arr. by date of recording. Indexed alph. by name of defendant. Hdw. on pr. fm. 430 p. 18 x 13 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Rec.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

Certificates of sales and redemption that do not fit printed forms may also be found in entries 114, 116, and 117.

Recorder - Instruments

Recorded

114. CERTIFICATE LEVY, SALE, AND REDEMPTION (Sheriff's and Master's), 1893-1919. 1 v. (2). 1920-- in Deeds (and Other Instruments), entry 97.

Copies of sheriff's certificates of levy, and sheriff's and master's certificates of sale that do not fit printed forms, showing names of plaintiff, defendant, and sheriff or master, date and amount of judgment, legal description of property, date and amount of sale, name of purchaser, and dates of redemption, filing, and recording. Also contains Redemption Record, entry 117. Arr. by date of recording. Indexed alph. by name of defendant. 1893-1913, hdw.; 1914-19, typed. 600 p. 18 x 13 x 3. Rec.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

For prior record of certificates of levy see entry 115; for prior records of certificates of sale, see entry 116; for prior records of certificates of redemption, see entries 116, 117.

115. CERTIFICATE OF LEVY, 1841-72. 2 v.

Copies of sheriff's certificates of levy, showing names of plaintiff, defendant, and sheriff, date and court of judgment, amount of judgment, legal description of property, and dates of filing and recording. Subsequent to 1869, consists solely of certificates of levy that do not fit printed forms. Arr. by date of recording. No index. Hdw. 100 p. 12 x 9 x $\frac{1}{2}$. Cir. clk.'s vlt., 4th fl.

For subsequent records of certificates of levy, see entries 112, 114.

116. SALE (and Redemption) RECORD (Master's and Sheriff's), 1856-92.

4 v. (A, B, D, E).

Copies of master's and sheriff's certificates of sale and redemption, showing names of master in chancery or sheriff, plaintiff, defendant, and purchaser, amounts of judgment and court costs, legal description of property, date, place, and amount of sale, and dates of redemption, filing, and recording. Consists of records of master's and sheriff's certificates of sale and redemption, 1856-59, then becomes record of certificates of sale that do not fit printed forms. Contains Master's Certificate of Sale and Redemption - Master's Certificate of Sale, 1856-69, entry 113, and Redemption Record, 1856-76, 1890-92, entry 117. Arr. by date of recording. Indexed alph. by name of defendant. Hdw. 450 p. 14 x 8 x 2. Rec.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

For subsequent record of sheriff's certificates of sale and redemption, see entry 112; for subsequent record of certificates of sale that do not fit printed forms, see entry 114.

117. REDEMPTION RECORD, 1877-89. 1 v. 1856-76, 1890-92 in Sale (and Redemption) Record (Master's and Sheriff's), entry 116; 1893-1919 in Certificate Levy, Sale, and Redemption (Sheriff's and Master's), entry 114; 1920-- in Deeds (and Other Instruments), entry 97.

Copies of master's and sheriff's certificates of redemption that do not fit printed forms, showing names of master or sheriff, plaintiff, defendant, and purchaser, date and amount of sale, legal description of property, book and page of sale record, and dates of redemption, filing, and recording. Arr. by date of recording. Indexed alph. by name of defendant. Hdw. 425 p. 18 x 13 x $2\frac{1}{2}$. Rec.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

Other Instruments

118. ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION, 1891--. 7 v. (1-7).
Record of organization and dissolution of corporations, showing name of corporation, object of incorporation, location of principal office, amount of capital stock, number and value of shares, names and addresses of officers and stockholders, and dates of incorporation and recording. Arr. by date of recording. Indexed alph. by name of corporation. 1891-1903, hdw.; 1904--, typed. 500 p. 18 x 13 x 3. Rec.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

119. SOLDIERS' DISCHARGE RECORD, 1864--. 4 v. (A-D). Missing: 1900-1917.
Copies of soldiers' honorable discharge certificates, showing name, rank, birthplace, and age of soldier, reason for discharge, service record, and date and place of enlistment and discharge. Arr. by date of recording. Indexed alph. by name of soldier. 1864-1919, hdw. on pr. fm.; 1920--, hdw. and typed on pr. fm. 380 p. 18 x 13 x 3. Rec.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

120. TOWNSHIP TREASURERS' BOND, 1890-1920. 1 v.
Copies of township treasurers' bonds, showing names of treasurer, township, and sureties, date, amount, and terms of bond, and date of recording. Arr. by date of recording. Indexed alph. by name of treasurer. Hdw. on pr. fm. 280 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Rec.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

121. TOWN COLLECTORS' BOND, 1851-1918. 3 v. (1 not numbered, 1, 2).
Missing: 1870-87.
Copies of town collectors' bonds, showing names of collector and sureties, date, amount, and terms of bond, affidavit of sureties, oath of collector, and date of recording. Arr. by date of bond. Indexed alph. by name of collector. Hdw. on pr. fm. 1851-69, binding poor. 300 p. 18 x 13 x 2. 1 v. not numbered, 1851-69, cir. clk.'s vlt., 4th fl.; v. 1, 2, 1888-1918, rec.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

122. INDEX TO MINES (Record of Mines), 1905--. 1 v. (1).
Record of mines in Vermilion County, showing names of mine and owner, location by section, township, and range, and date of start of operations. Arr. alph. by name of mine. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 300 p. 16 x 11 x 3. Rec.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

123. REGISTER OF NAMES OF LANDS, 1924--. 1 v. (1). Last entry 1932.
Register of farm names, showing name and address of owner and farm, legal description of land, and date of registration. Arr. by date of entry. Indexed alph. by name of farm. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 290 p. 17 x 15 x 2. Rec.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

124. STALLION RECORD, 1910-18. 2 v. (1, 2). Discontinued as a county record, now kept by State of Illinois Department of Agriculturo, Division of Animal Husbandry, Springfield, Illinois. Copies of stallion certificates, showing names of stallion and owner, date and number of certificate, date of birth and pedigree of stallion, and dates of expiration and recording of certificate. Arr. by date of recording. Indexed alph. by name of owner. Hdw. on pr. fm. 400 p. 18 x 13 x 3. Rec.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

Maps and Plats

125. VERMILION COUNTY ROADS, 1827-1905. 2 v. Title varies: Road Record, 1 v., 1827-70. 1906-- in Plat Record, entry 126. Road plats transcribed from the original road plats, 1827-31, and from the county board records, 1832-68, and road plats and field notes as compiled by the various county surveyors, 1869--, showing location and description of each road, dimensions, surveyors' remarks and certification, and order and date of survey. Authors, county surveyors. Published in Vermilion County. Arr. by date of survey. 1827-70, no index; 1871--, indexed alph. by name of twp. Hdw. and hand-drawn. 500 - 600 p. 18 x 13 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 18 x 13 x 3. 1 v., 1827-70, co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.; 1 v., 1871--, rec.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

126. PLAT RECORD, 1879--. 7 v. 1826-78 in Deeds (and Other Instruments), entry 97. Copies of Vermilion County plats, showing legal descriptpion of property, certificate of correctness, and dates of filing and recording. Also contains Vermilion County Roads, 1906--, entry 125. Arr. by date of recording. Indexed alph. by name of addition; for sep. index, see entry 94; for additional index to plats, 1826-1921, see entry 95. 1879-1920, hand-drawn and hdw.; 1921--, hand-drawn and typed. 1 in. to 100 ft. 500 p. 18 x 13 x 3. Rec.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

127. ATLAS OF VERMILION COUNTY, 1915. 3 v. Political atlas of Vermilion County, showing history of county, names, and plats of cities, towns, and villages, names of streets, routes of highways and streams, and maps of Illinois, United States, and the world. Chicago, Illinois: George A. Ogle and Company, publisher. Arr. by twp. no. Indexed alph. by name of twp. Printed and colored. 1 in. to 300 ft., 2 in. to 1 mi. 200 p. 14 x 14 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. Rec.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

128. PLAT BOOK, 1866. 1 v. Recorded plats of government surveys, showing name of township, legal description of land surveyed, corners described, course, links distant, and inches diameter of witness trees, and date of survey. 1 in. to 40 chains. Arr. by date of survey. No index. Hdw. and hand-drawn. 50 p. 21 x 16 x 2. Rec.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

Fees, Reports, and Miscellaneous Records

129. RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES (Register of Fees), 1901--. 38 v.

Register of recorder's fees, showing date, amount, name of payer, and number of recorded instrument. Arr. by date of receipt. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 600 p. 18 x 13 x 3. 37 v., 1901-37, rec.'s vlt., 2nd fl.; 1 v., 1938--, rec.'s off., 2nd fl.

130. RECEIPTS FOR DOCUMENTS, 1917-19. 15 v.

Copies of receipts for documents left for recordation, showing date of receipts, name and address of person leaving instrument for recordation, and instrument number. Arr. by date of receipt. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 100 p. 16 x 11 x 1. Rec.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

IV. COUNTY COURT

The county court serves as the judicial branch of county government. This court is administered by the county judge who is elected for a four-year term by the county electorate. Before entering upon the duties of his office, the county judge is required to take and subscribe to an oath which he files with the Secretary of State. The compensation of the Vermilion county judge was originally set at \$2.50 per diem for holding court, which was paid quarterly out of the county treasury.¹ Today, the judge in this county receives \$5,000 per annum.² The court hears and determines matters in which it has original or concurrent jurisdiction, including appeals from the justices of the peace and police magistrates.³

At the time of the organization of Vermilion County, the powers of the judiciary in all counties were administered only by the justices of the peace,⁴ the probate judge,⁵ and the circuit court.⁶ Later, a civil and criminal court with jurisdiction coextensive with the county lines was established under the provisions of the Constitution of 1848 and legislation of 1849.⁷ The court created was the county court. This unit of county government was established with a partial reversion

1. L.1849, p. 62,63.

2. L.1933, p. 616.

3. R.S.1874, p. 339,340; L.1881, p. 70.

4. Constitution of 1818, Art. IV, sec. 8; L.1819, p. 192.

5. L.1821, p. 119.

6. L.1819, p. 380.

7. Constitution of 1848, Art. V, sec. 1,16; L.1849, p. 62.

to the dual function, administrative and judicial, of the local judiciary in Illinois under the Territorial Laws prior to 1818. The court was different from the territorial courts in that its composition varied for each of the two functions. The judicial court was administered by the county judge, who was elected by the county electorate and commissioned by the Governor. His original four-year tenure of office has remained effective to the present.¹ As the administrative body, the court was made up of the county judge and two justices of the peace.²

Under the second constitution complete separation of county business powers from the judicial could be had with the acceptance by the county electorate of an independent administrative body, the board of supervisors, established under township organization.³ This plan of government was not selected immediately, and Vermilion was governed by the dual county court until 1851 when the county board of supervisors became successor to the county court in its jurisdiction over county affairs and business. From that date on, the county court has served only as a judicial court in Vermilion County.

The county court as established in 1849 was vested with the same civil and criminal jurisdiction as the justices of the peace. The county judge was made a conservator of the peace. He was given the same power and authority as the circuit judge in preserving order in the court and punishing contempts offered the court while in session.⁴ Suits for the sale of delinquent lands for taxes of 1848, and prior years, could be brought and presented in either the circuit or county court, but for taxes of subsequent years, the county court was given exclusive original jurisdiction.⁵ The court also exercised jurisdiction equal with that of the circuit court over naturalization.⁶

In addition to its civil and criminal jurisdiction, the court was vested with all the powers and jurisdiction in probate matters which were vested prior to this date in the court of the probate justice. The court was given concurrent jurisdiction with the circuit court in hearing and determining applications for the sale of real estate of deceased persons and for the payment of debts for the estate.⁷ In 1910, when Vermilion County established a separate probate court, the county court lost this jurisdiction.

1. Constitution of 1848, Art. V, sec. 17; L.1849, p. 62; R.S.1674, p. 339; L.1933, p. 451.
2. L.1849, p. 65.
3. Constitution of 1848, Art. VII, sec. 6; L.1849, p. 192,202-4; L.1851, p. 38,50-52.
4. L.1849, p. 65.
5. Ibid., p. 126.
6. 2 U.S.S.L. 155.
7. L.1849, p. 65.

County Court

The law jurisdiction of the county court in Vermilion County is concurrent with that of the circuit court in that class of cases wherein the justices of the peace have jurisdiction where the value of the amount in controversy does not exceed \$2,000,¹ in all cases of appeals from justices of the peace and police magistrates, and in all criminal offenses and misdemeanors where the punishment is not imprisonment in the penitentiary or death.² The county court also has original jurisdiction in matters relating to indigent mothers,³ and jurisdiction over insane persons not charged with crime.⁴

The county and circuit courts have original jurisdiction in cases of juvenile offenders. This jurisdiction is over matters dealing with dependent, neglected, and delinquent children. The authority includes provision for the treatment, control, maintenance, adoption, and guardianship of such children.⁵

In 1899, provision was made for the appointment by the court of a juvenile probation officer to serve without compensation from the public treasury and at the pleasure of the court.⁶ In 1907 an amendment to this act authorized the court to allow compensation to such officers in a sum to be set by the county board, but the power of the court to appoint probation officers to serve without pay was in no way abridged by this legislation.⁷ An amendment of 1925 provided that if more than one probation officer were appointed, one was to be designated as chief probation officer. To be eligible for the position of chief probation officer, the candidate was required to have had experience in social welfare work equivalent to one year spent in active practical welfare work. Minimum rates, based upon population, were established for the compensation of these officers, the county board to fix the amount. Where a county had only one probation officer, the salary rates were made to apply to that individual. The court, however, retains the power to appoint probation officers to serve without pay.⁸ For Vermilion County, and others with

1. Under the laws of 1872 and the revised statutes of 1874, the jurisdiction was in cases wherein the amount involved did not exceed \$500 (L.1871-72, p. 325; R.S.1874, p. 340). Legislation enacted in 1933 extended the jurisdiction to \$2,000 (L.1933, p. 452), but a later amendment of the same session, passed June 21, 1933, placed the jurisdiction in cases where the amount involved is not over \$1,000 (*ibid.*, p. 449). In 1939 jurisdiction was again extended to \$2,000 (L.1939, p. 492).
2. R.S.1874, p. 340; L.1877, p. 77; L.1895, p. 212,223; L.1933, p. 448.
3. L.1913, p. 127; L.1915, p. 243; L.1921, p. 164; L.1935, p. 256.
4. L.1869, p. 366; R.S.1874, p. 685.
5. L.1899, p. 131-37; L.1901, p. 141-44; L.1905, p. 152-56; L.1907, p. 70-78.
6. L.1899, p. 133.
7. L.1907, p. 69,70.
8. L.1925, p. 187,188.

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a population of more than fifty thousand and not exceeding one hundred thousand¹ the rate is set at a sum not less than \$150 a month.

The officer under consideration makes investigation on order of the court and takes charge of the child before and after trial. He is required to be present at the court hearings in order that he may represent the interest of the child. This officer also furnishes information and assistance as required by the court.²

Upon petition filed with the clerk of the court for the removal of a neglected or dependent child from the custody of its parents or guardian, process is issued for appearance. The summons may be served by the sheriff or the duly appointed probation officer.³

At any time after the filing of the petition and pending the final disposition, the court may allow the child to remain in the possession of its custodian, or in its home subject to the visitation of the probation officer; or the child may be ordered in custody of the probation officer.⁴ If upon hearing the case the court finds the child to be dependent or neglected, the court may commit the child to an association or institution, or allow the child to remain in his home subject to the visitation of the probation officer.⁵ In a similar fashion the probation officer for adults, an appointee of the circuit court, assists the county court in the administration of justice among adult violators.⁶

In cases of delinquency, if the court finds any child to be delinquent, the court may commit the child to an institution or to the custody of the probation officer. The court may, upon its discretion, send juvenile offenders and vagrants to the state reform school rather than to the county jail.⁷

Another probation officer, also an appointee of the county court, assists the court in mothers' pension cases. The state and county funds for indigent mothers and their children are administered by the county court, its appointed probation officers, the county board with the assistance of the county clerk, the county treasurer, and the State Department of Public Welfare. The county court, however, is given original jurisdiction in these matters.⁸

1. In 1930 the population of Vermilion County was listed as 89,339.
2. Population Bulletin, p. 9.
3. L.1899, p. 133; L.1925, p. 187,188.
4. L.1899, p. 132,133; L.1905, p. 153,154; L.1907, p. 72,73.
5. L.1923, p. 180,181.
6. L.1911, p. 280-82.
7. L.1907, p. 75.
8. L.1913, p. 127; L.1915, p. 243; L.1921, p. 164; L.1935, p. 256.

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A mother whose husband is dead or incapacitated, or who is abandoned by her husband, is entitled to the benefits of the mothers' pension fund when she is in need. Such mother may file an application with the county court for relief. The case of the applicant is then investigated by the probation officer under the direction of the court.¹ A report and recommendation of the approval or disapproval of such application is then made by this officer of the court. If the application is approved, the probation officer or other person may file with the clerk of the court a written petition verified by affidavit setting forth the facts giving the court jurisdiction and other facts upon which an order for relief is entered. Upon receipt of the petition, a summons is issued to the mother and the county board for appearance. The usual procedure is for the board to make a written appearance. Upon the hearing in court, the court may make an order upon the county board to pay monthly such money as may be necessary for the care of the mother and her child or children in accordance with the provisions of law.²

To carry out this procedure, the county court appoints the probation officer who serves during the pleasure of the court and is compensated for his services by the county in such amount as determined by the county board. As noted above, this officer is required to investigate all applications for relief and make a written report to the court. In addition to this duty, the probation officer makes quarterly visits and supervises, under the direction of the court, the families to which such assistance has been granted.³

The county board annually levies a tax on all taxable property to provide for the mothers' pension fund. The levy is made not in excess of two-fifths of one mill on a dollar in Vermilion County.⁴ In addition, the General Assembly, from time to time, makes appropriations to the State Department of Public Welfare, the funds, in turn, being distributed to the several counties to supplement the pension fund. To become entitled to the state appropriations, the county must meet the standards of administration set by the state agency. The county treasurer certifies to the state department an itemized statement, attested by the county clerk, of the money paid out during each quarter in accordance with the legislative provisions for this pension and also certifies annually the total assessed valuation and amount of money raised by tax levy for the mothers' pension fund.⁵

1. L.1913, p. 127; L.1915, p. 244; L.1935, p. 256,257.

2. L.1913, p. 127-29; L.1935, p. 257.

3. L.1913, p. 129,130; L.1935, p. 258.

4. L.1919, p. 780,781; L.1927, p. 196,197; L.1928, First Sp. Sess., p. 3,4; L.1933, p. 194.

5. L.1935, p. 259.

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Jurisdiction in the election procedure is vested variously in the county board, the county court, and the county clerk. In the event that any city, village, or incorporated town adopts the City Election Act the county judge appoints a board of three election commissioners to have charge of elections in that political unit. Only one such board, however, is appointed in each county. This board has jurisdiction over elections in all cities, villages, or incorporated towns which may adopt the act.¹ Otherwise, jurisdiction is vested in the county board, county court, and county clerk. The county court has original jurisdiction in election contests for certain county, district, and township offices.²

Aiding in the settlement of questions arising in the course of the election procedure is the county officers electoral board. This body consists of the county judge as chairman, the county clerk, and the state's attorney.³

The several nomination papers for county offices are filed with the county clerk and are considered valid unless objections are made within five days after the last day for filing such papers. Objections to nominations are made to the county officers electoral board for any office of the county, park district, or other division coterminous with or less than the county and other than a city, village, incorporated town, or township.⁴ The objector's petition is filed with the county clerk who presents the same, together with the nomination papers or certificate, before the electoral board.⁵ The petition contains the objector's name and residence, the nature of the objection, the interest of the objector, and the relief sought of the board.⁶ A notice of the hearing is sent to the candidate. Upon hearing the objections, the board renders a final decision by majority vote. In the event the candidate whose nomination is protested is a member of the electoral board, the circuit judge is required to fill his place.⁷

Jurisdiction is vested in the county court to hear and determine all questions relative to taxes on gifts, legacies and inheritance.⁸ The act granting this jurisdiction is generally known as the "Inheritance Tax Law." Originally, the state's attorney was charged with the duty of enforcing the provision of this law,⁹ however, since 1913 these duties

1. L.1885, p. 147-49; L.1899, p. 163-65; L.1917, p. 445,446; L.1929, p. 399; L.1933, p. 534; L.1935-36, Fourth Sp. Sess., p. 35.

2. L.1871-72, p. 396.

3. L.1891, p. 110; L.1933, p. 552.

4. L.1891, p. 110,111; L.1929, p. 394.

5. L.1891, p. 111; L.1929, p. 394; L.1933, p. 552.

6. L.1929, p. 394,395.

7. L.1933, p. 552.

8. L.1895, p. 306; L.1909, p. 318.

9. L.1895, p. 306; L.1909, p. 319.

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have been performed by the Attorney General.¹ Under that law the county judge and the county clerk are required every three months to make a statement in writing to the county treasurer of the property from which or the party from whom he has reasons to believe a tax under this act is due and unpaid.² The county treasurer is required to collect and pay to the State Treasurer all taxes that may be due and payable under it.³

Under an act of 1933, housing corporations may be organized in Illinois for the express purpose of improving housing conditions.⁴ Such corporations are subject to the supervision and control of the State Housing Board. This state agency has authority, after investigations and public hearings, to approve the acquisition of property and construction of housing projects. If the State Housing Board approves a project over the objections of ten percent of the property owners within a mile, but not included in the project, it must then file an application with the clerk of the county court to be submitted to the county judge for the confirmation of its approval. Such application is to contain copies of the finding and order of the board, transcript of testimony, description of the project and public spaces, statement of location, and reasons for approval by the board. The objectors to the project may file objections in the county court to the confirmation of such a project. The county judge then examines the application, objections, and any additional evidence before rendering a decision of "approved" or "not approved" on the application.⁵

Appeals from the judgments and decisions of the county court may be taken to the circuit court.⁶ To the appellate court or supreme court may be taken and prosecuted appeals and writs of error in proceedings for the sale of lands for taxes and special assessments, in all common law and attachment cases, and in cases of forcible detainer and forcible entry and detainer. Such appeals and writs of error are, when not otherwise provided, taken and prosecuted in the same manner as appeals and writs of error from the circuit court.⁷

The records of the county court are kept by its clerk. In Vermilion County the county clerk is ex-officio clerk of the county court. In

1. L.1913, p. 515,516; L.1935, p. 1179,1180.
2. L.1895, p. 306; L.1909, p. 319; L.1913, p. 516.
3. L.1895, p. 307; L.1909, p. 319; L.1913, p. 516.
4. L.1933, p. 396-415; L.1933-34, Third Sp. Sess., p. 167-74.
5. Ibid.
6. R.S.1874, p. 339; L.1933, p. 396.
7. R.S.1874, p. 339; L.1877, p. 77; L.1881, p. 66.

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addition to the statutory records described below the clerk necessarily maintains others in effecting the court's orders.¹

For the court the clerk keeps the following records:

1. Books of record of the proceedings and judgments of the court with alphabetical indexes by names of parties. Proceedings are recorded at length only in cases designated by law or when the court, at the motion and assumption of expenses by one of the parties, so orders. In practice, the court record has been broken down from an early date into segregated types of proceedings and judgments.
2. "Plaintiff-Defendant Index to Court Records" and "Defendant-Plaintiff Index to Court Records," intended to be separate records, but frequently combined in a single volume with the two indexes segregated in each volume.
3. A general docket in which all suits are entered in the order they are commenced.
4. A judgment and execution docket containing a column for the entry of satisfaction or other disposition. In practice, an execution docket is frequently set up independently.
5. Additional dockets, designated as the clerk's, judge's, and bar docket. In practice, the bar docket has tended to drop out of use.²
6. A fee book in which costs and fees are to be entered under the proper title of the cause. In practice, separate series of volumes are maintained under these titles of causes.
7. Transcripts of proceedings in appeals from justices' courts, dockets thereof, and transcripts of judgment for liens, etc., from justices' courts.
8. Naturalization records including petitions, proceedings, final certificates, etc. The county courts in Illinois prior to 1906 met the requirement of Federal statutes to exercise naturalization jurisdiction.³

1. The form which such records take is generally determined by court order (L.1849, p. 66; R.S.1874, p. 263).
2. The Civil Practice Act of 1933 grants authority to county courts, subject to rules promulgated by the Supreme Court and not inconsistent with statutory requirements, to make such rules as they may deem expedient, regulating dockets and calendars of said court (L.1933, p. 786).
3. 2 U.S.S.L. 153; U.S.R.S.1789-1874, p. 378.

9. Original documents used in court hearings and determinations; of particular importance in the large number of cases where complete proceedings are not spread on court record.¹
10. Monthly reports of the warden of the county jail containing a list of all prisoners in his custody and showing the cause of commitment and names of persons by whom committed.²

Proceedings of Court

131. INDEX TO COUNTY COURT RECORD PLAINTIFF - DEFENDANT, 1872--.
10 v. (1-5, plaintiff; 1-5, defendant).

Index to Common Law Papers, entry 132; County Court Record Special Assessment, entry 134; County Court Record Common Law, entry 135; (Criminal Files), entry 137; County Court Record Criminal, entry 138; and County Court Record, entry 139, showing case number, names of plaintiff and defendant, and book and page of entry. Arr. alph. by names of plaintiff and defendant. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 500 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

132. COMMON LAW PAPERS, 1872--. 217 f.b.
Original papers in common law cases, including praecipes, declarations, petitions, summonses, citations, subpoenas, affidavits of witnesses, publication notices, orders of court, defendant's answer, demurrers, pleas, replications, rejoinders, surrejoinders, rebutters, surrebutters, venires for jury, challenges to the poll and array of jurors, evidence, instructions, verdicts, orders allowing and overruling motions for new trial, judgments on verdict, writs of supersedeas, writs of error from and appeals to appellate and supreme courts, appeal bonds, and final orders of appellate and supreme courts; including special assessment papers (sidewalks), 1872-75, 1878--. Also contains (Adoption Papers), 1872-1910, 1912, entry 133. Arr. by case no. For index, see entry 131. Hdw., hdw. on pr. fm., typed, and typed on pr. fm. 10 x 5 x 14. 58 f.b., 1872-96, common vlt., 5th fl.; 159 f.b., 1897--, co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

For other common law papers, see entry 87[vii].

133. (ADOPTION PAPERS), 1872--. 1872-1910, 1912--, in Common Law Papers, entry 132; 1911 in Miscellaneous Papers, entry 87.
Original documents filed in adoption cases, including petitions, affidavits, complaints, investigation reports, and court decrees. Typed.

1. R.S.1845, p. 323,324,414,418,419; L.1865, p. 79,80; L.1871-72, p. 325; R.S.1874, p. 262,263,339; L.1877; p. 77; L.1933, p. 448,451; 2 U.S.S.L. 153-55; U.S.R.S.1789-1874, p. 378-80; 34 U.S.S.L. 596-607; 44 U.S.S.L. 709,710.
2. R.S.1874, p. 616; L.1933, p. 678.

134. COUNTY COURT RECORD SPECIAL ASSESSMENT, 1892--. 20 v. (8, 9, 11, 14, 16, 18, 22, 23, 25, 26, 30, 31, 34, 35, 37, 40, 42, 47, 50, 51). 1859-91 in County Court Record, entry 139.

Record of objections to special assessments, showing type of special assessment, purpose, legal description of property assessed, names of persons objecting to assessment, orders of court, and dates of proceedings. Arr. by date of objection. For index, see entry 131. 1892-1924, hdw.; 1925--, typed. 400 p. 18 x 12 x 2. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

135. COUNTY COURT RECORD COMMON LAW, 1910--. 6 v. (21, 27, 36, 44, 53, 62). 1859-1909 in County Court Record, entry 139.

Record of common law cases, showing case number, names of plaintiff, defendant, attorneys, and officers of court, action, orders of court, and date of proceedings. Arr. by date of hearing. For index, see entry 131. 1910-24, hdw.; 1925--, typed. 600 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

136. CRIMINAL INDEX, 1932--. 1 v.

Index to (Criminal Files), entry 137, and County Court Record Criminal, entry 138, showing case number, name of defendant, kind of action, and date of judgment, and book and page of entry in record, docket, and fee book. Arr. alph. by name of defendant. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 600 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

137. (CRIMINAL FILES), 1873--. 128 f.b.

Original papers in criminal cases, including indictments, petitions for habeas corpus, summonses, subpoenas, jury venires, challenges to the poll and array of jurors, evidence, instructions to jury, exceptions and objections to instructions, witness affidavits, orders allowing and overruling motions for new trial, petitions for probation, judgments of conviction, writs of mittimus and supersedeas, writs of error from appellate and supreme courts, and final order of appellate and supreme courts. Also contains Bonds (Bail and Recognizance), 1873-1909, entry 166. Arr. by case no. For index, 1873-1931, see entry 131; for index, 1932--, see entry 136. Hdw., hdw. on pr. fm., typed, and typed on pr. fm. 10 x 5 x 14. 22 f.b., 1873-1919, common vlt., 5th fl.; 106 f.b., 1920--, co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

For other criminal papers, see entry 87[vii].

138. COUNTY COURT RECORD CRIMINAL, 1912--. 13 v. (24, 28, 33, 38, 43, 46, 48, 49, 52, 55, 57, 59, 61). 1859-1911 in County Court Record, entry 139.

Record of proceedings in criminal cases, showing case number, term of court, names of plaintiff, defendant, and officers of court, nature of charge, action taken, and orders of court. Arr. by date of hearing. For index, 1912-31, see entry 131; for index, 1932--, see entry 136. 1912-24, hdw.; 1925--, typed. 600 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

County Court - Proceedings of Court

139. COUNTY COURT RECORD, 1859-1911. 14 v. (1 not numbered, 1-7, 10, 12, 13, 15, 17, 19). 1849-58 in Supervisors' Record, entry 2.

Record of proceedings in common law and criminal cases, showing case number, date of term, names of plaintiff, defendant, and officers of court, type of action, proceedings and orders of court, and date of judgment. Also contains County Court Record Special Assessment, 1859-91, entry 134; Confession Record Vacation, 1859-77, entry 140; and County Court Record Juvenile, 1859-1909, entry 173. Subsequently kept as County Court Record Common Law, entry 135, and County Court Record Criminal, entry 138. Arr. by date of hearing. 1859-71, no index; for index, 1872-1911, see entry 131; for additional index to juvenile records, 1907-9, see entry 169. Hdw. 600 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

140. CONFESSION RECORD VACATION, 1878-1913. 2 v. (1, 2). 1859-77 in County Court Record, entry 139.

Record of judgments by confession in vacation, showing names of plaintiff, defendant, and attorneys, type of action, judgment of court, case number, and dates of confession and judgment. Arr. by date of judgment. Indexed alph. by name of defendant. Hdw. on pr. fm. 590 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

141. INDEX TO INSANE RECORD, 1884--. 1 v.

Index to Insane Papers, entry 142, and Insane Record, entry 143, showing name of person alleged insane, case number, and book and page of entry. Arr. alph. by name of person alleged insane. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 300 p. 18 x 13 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

142. INSANE PAPERS, 1884--. 27 f.b.

Original papers in insanity cases, including declaration of lunacy signed by petitioner, medical examination and report, hearing on declaration, report of commission, verdict of jury, summonses, affidavits of witnesses, and orders of commitment; includes papers in cases of feeble-minded, 1908--. Arr. by case no. For index, see entry 141. Hdw., hdw. on pr. fm., typed, and typed on pr. fm. 10 x 5 x 14. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

For prior petitions of insanity and warrants for arrest, see entry 87[ix].

143. INSANE RECORD, 1884-1907, 1913--. 9 v. (1, 2, 6-12). 1849-83, 1908-12 in Probate Journal, entry 192.

Court record of insanity proceedings, showing names of judge, clerk, sheriff, petitioner, and person alleged insane, report of examining committee, action of court, place of commitment, and dates of proceedings. Arr. by date of hearing. For index, see entry 141. 1884-1925, hdw.; 1926--, typed. 275 p. 18 x 13 x 3. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

144. FEEBLE-MINDED, 1915--. 4 f.b.

Original court orders committing feeble-minded persons to institutions, showing names of persons declared feeble-minded, witnesses, and judge, name of institution, case number, and date of order. Arr. by case no. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 10 x 5 x 14. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

For other papers concerning cases of feeble-minded, see entry 87[ix].

145. RECORD OF FEEBLE-MINDED, 1916--. 2 v. (1, 2).

Record of cases of feeble-minded persons, showing term date, case number, names of petitioner, person alleged feeble-minded, judge, and examining commission, report of commission, orders of court, and dates of petition and proceedings. Arr. by date of petition. Indexed alph. by name of alleged feeble-minded person. 1916-26, hdw. on pr. fm.; 1927--, typed on pr. fm. 300 p. 18 x 13 x 3. Co. clk.'s off., 3rd fl.

146. ALIMONY RECORD (Separate Maintenance), 1900--. 4 v.

Record of moneys paid in non-support cases pending filing of divorce and fixing of temporary alimony or maintenance payments, showing amount fixed by court, date and amount of payment, names of payor and payee, and signature of recipient. Arr. by date of payment. Indexed alph. by name of payor. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 300 p. 10 x 13 x 2½. Co. clk.'s off., 3rd fl.

147. (COURT TESTIMONY), 1910-30. 20 pamphlets.

Complete transcripts of testimonies presented in county court cases, pleas by attorneys to jury, and decisions of court. Arr. by date of hearing. No index. Typed. 9 x 11 x ½. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

148. JUSTICE OF THE PEACE RECORDS (Files), 1872-1920. 3 wooden boxes. Subsequent files in custody of present justicos of the peace.

Original documents filed in cases appealed from justice of the peace courts, including attachments, summonses, witness affidavits, petitions, writs of forcible entry and detainer, and transcripts of proceedings. Arr. by date of hearing. No index. Hdw., and hdw. on pr. fm. 14 x 13 x 24. Common vlt., 5th fl.

Dockets

Court Dockets

149. JUDGE'S CRIMINAL DOCKET, 1883--. 27 v. (2-6, 22 not numbered).

Judge's docket of criminal cases, showing term date, case number, names of defendant, attorneys, and judge, charge, abstract of proceedings, and book and page of entry in court record and fee book. Arr. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 600 p. 16 x 11 x 4. V. 2-4, 1883-1900, common vlt., 5th fl.; v. 5, 6, 1901-9, pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.; 19 v. not numbered, 1910-32, co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.; 3 v. not numbered, 1933--, co. clk.'s off., 3rd fl.

150. JUDGE'S DOCKET COMMON LAW, 1888--. 10 v. (F, H, I, 1888-1905; 7 not lettered, 1899--). Missing: 1894-95.

Judge's docket of common law cases, showing term date and number of case, names of plaintiff, defendant, attorneys, and judge, type of action, abstract and dates of proceedings, and final judgment of court. Arr. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 300 p. 16 x 12 x 3. V. F, 1888-93, common vlt., 5th fl.; v. H, I, 1896-1905, pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.; 6 v. not lettered, 1899-1935, co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.; 1 v. not lettered, 1936--, co. clk.'s off., 3rd fl.

151. JUDGE'S INSANE DOCKET, 1893--. 6 v. (2 not numbered, 3-6). 1850-92 in Judge's Journal (Docket), entry 223.

Judge's docket of insanity cases, showing case number, term date, name of person alleged insane, witnesses, petitioner, and judge, report of physicians, court orders, final disposition of case, place of commitment, and dates of proceedings. Arr. by date of entry. Indexed alph. by name of person alleged insane. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 640 p. 18 x 13 x 3. 2 v. not numbered, 1893-1908, pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.; v. 3, 4, 1909-23, co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.; v. 5, 6, 1924--, co. clk.'s off., 3rd fl.

152. JUDGMENT AND EXECUTION DOCKET, 1901--. 9 v. (F-N).

Docket of judgments and executions, showing case number, names of plaintiff and defendant, amount and date of judgment, costs, date of execution, and sheriff's return on execution. This docket was formerly kept as Judgment Docket, entry 153, and Execution Docket, entry 154. Arr. by date of judgment. Indexed alph. by name of plaintiff. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 500 p. 18 x 13 x 3. V. F-K, 1901-27, co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.; v. L-N, 1928--, co. clk.'s off., 3rd fl.

153. JUDGMENT DOCKET, 1859-1900. 5 v. (A-E). 1901-- in Judgment and Execution Docket, entry 152.

Dockets of judgments, showing case number, names of plaintiff and defendant, action, date, amount of judgment and costs, against whom judgment entered, and satisfaction. Arr. by date of judgment. Indexed alph. by name of plaintiff. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 600 p. 18 x 13 x 3. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

154. EXECUTION DOCKET, 1859-1900. 3 v. (A-C). 1901-- in Judgment and Execution Docket, entry 152.

Docket of executions, showing case number, names of plaintiff and defendant, date of execution, amount of damages and costs, to whom issued, and sheriff's return. Arr. by date of execution. Indexed alph. by name of plaintiff. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 600 p. 18 x 13 x 3. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

155. SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DOCKET, 1906--. 6 v. Missing: 1917-18.

Docket of special assessment petitions and objections, showing term date, type and amount of special assessment, names of petitioners and objectors, court proceedings, and final decision. Arr. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 200 p. 18 x 11 x 2. 4 v., 1906-16, 1929-30, co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.; 2 v., 1919-28, 1931--, co. clk.'s off., 3rd fl.

156. JUDGE'S JUVENILE DOCKET, 1907--. 7 v. (1-7). 1850-1906 in Judge's Journal (Docket), entry 223.

Judge's docket of cases of delinquent, dependent, and neglected children, showing term date, case number, names of petitioner and juvenile, action, abstract and dates of proceedings, and judge's final decision. Arr. by term date. Indexed alph. by name of juvenile. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 200 p. 18 x 13 x 2. V. 1-6, 1907-35, co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.; v. 7, 1936--, co. clk.'s off., 3rd fl.

157. CLERK'S DOCKET, 1907--. 3 v.

Clerk's docket of county court cases, showing case number, date of commencement, names of plaintiff, defendant, and attorney, and type of action. Arr. by case no. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 250 p. 17 x 13 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

158. PRAECIPE DOCKET, 1918--. 1 v.

Docket of praecipes for executions, subpoenas, and summonses, showing date and number of case, names of plaintiff, defendant, and clerk, and date of filing. Arr. by date of writ. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 200 p. 12 x 8 x 2. Co. clk.'s off., 3rd fl.

159. CHATTEL MORTGAGE DOCKET, 1901-32. 2 v.

Docket of chattel mortgages acknowledged by county judge, showing names of mortgagor and mortgagee, date, amount, and terms of mortgage, and list of chattel property mortgaged. Arr. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. 150 p. 14 x 8 x 1. 1 v., 1901-23, co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.; 1 v., 1924-32, co. clk.'s off., 3rd fl.

160. APPLICATION DOCKET, 1910-16. 1 v. Missing: 1912, 1914, 1915.

Docket of applications to the county court for the registration of voters of the City of Danville, showing date and number of application, name of applicant, precinct and ward numbers, and final disposition of each application. Arr. by date of application. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 480 p. 18 x 13 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

Justices' Dockets (See also
entries 257, 258)

161. JUSTICE OF PEACE DOCKETS, 1839-1925. 27 v. Missing: 1857-59.

Current records are in the custody of present justices of the peace.

Dockets of justice of the peace courts, showing term date, names of plaintiff, defendant, justice, and attorneys, type of action, proceedings and orders of the court, costs, and date. Arr. by date of hearing. Indexed alph. by name of plaintiff and defendant. Hdw., and hdw. under pr. hdgs. 300 p. 14 x 9 x 2. Common vlt., 5th fl.

Fee Books

162. FEE BOOK INSANE AND JUVENILE, 1911--. 4 v. (2, 6, 8, 14).

1859-1910 in Fee Book, entry 165.

Register of fees in insane and juvenile cases, showing name of alleged insane or juvenile, type of action, itemized statement of fees and cost, and date of payment. Arr. by date of receipt. Indexed alph. by name of alleged insane or juvenile. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 600 p. 18 x 13 x 3. V. 2, 6, 8, 1911-32, co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.; v. 14, 1933--, co. clk.'s off., 3rd fl.

County Court - Bonds;
Jury Records

(163-168)

163. FEE BOOK COMMON LAW, 1916--. 2 v. (5, 11). 1859-1915 in Fee Book, entry 165.

Register of fees in common law cases, showing names of plaintiff and defendant, type of action, itemized list of court costs and fees, and date of payment. Arr. by date of receipt. Indexed alph. by name of plaintiff. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 600 p. 18 x 13 x 3. V. 5, 1916-26, co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.; v. 11, 1927--, co. clk.'s off., 3rd fl.

164. FEE BOOK CRIMINAL, 1916--. 7 v. (4, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15). 1859-1915 in Fee Book, entry 165.

Register of fees in criminal cases, showing case number, name of defendant, nature of charge, list of court costs and fees, and date of payment. Arr. by date of receipt. Indexed alph. by name of defendant. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 500 p. 18 x 13 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. V. 4, 7, 9, 1916-26, co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.; v. 10, 12, 13, 15, 1927--, co. clk.'s off., 3rd fl.

165. FEE BOOK, 1859-1915. 13 v. (A-K, 1859-1913; 1, 3, 1911-15).

Register of county court fees received, showing term date, names of plaintiff and defendant, action, court costs, amount of sheriff's and witness fees, and date of payment. Subsequent to 1911 and 1916 kept respectively as Fee Book Insane and Juvenile, entry 162; Fee Book Common Law, entry 163; and Fee Book Criminal, entry 164. Arr. by date of receipt. Indexed alph. by name of plaintiff. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 550 p. 18 x 13 x 3. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

Bonds

166. BONDS (Bail and Recognizance), 1910--. 1 f.b. 1873-1909 in (Criminal Files), entry 137.

Original bail and recognizance bonds given to insure appearance in court, showing names of principal and sureties, date, amount, and obligation of bond, and dates of appearance and filing. Arr. by date of filing. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 13 x 6 x 13 $\frac{1}{2}$. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

167. BAIL BOND RECORD - RECOGNIZANCE RECORD, 1872-1922. 3 v. Missing: 1878-1909, 1913-1916.

Copies of bail bonds, showing names of defendant and sureties, amount, date and terms of bond, and date of appearance. Arr. by date of bond. Indexed alph. by name of surety. Hdw. on pr. fm. 500 p. 18 x 13 x 3 $\frac{1}{2}$. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

Jury Records

(See also entries 24, 87[xi], 132, 137, 248, 274, 275)

168. RECORD LIST OF JURORS AND WITNESSES, 1924--. 1 v.

Register of jurors and witnesses, showing case number, name and address of juror or witness, days of service, mileage, and amount of payment. Arr. by date of case. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 200 p. 16 x 12 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

Probation

Juvenile (See also
entry 440)

169. INDEX TO COURT RECORDS JUVENILE, 1907--. 1 v.
Index to juvenile records in County Court Record, entry 139; Juvenile Files, entry 170; and County Court Record Juvenile, entry 173, showing case number, name of juvenile, kind of action, book and page of entry, and date. Arr. alph. by name of juvenile. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 300 p. 18 x 13 x 1½. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

170. JUVENILE FILES, 1907--. 41 f.b. 1875-1906 in Miscellaneous Papers, entry 87.
Original papers in cases of delinquent, dependent, and neglected children, including summonses, petitions to court, investigation and chronological supervision reports, court orders, court histories, and reports on changes of placements, and acceptance or discharge of children. Arr. by case no. For index, see entry 169. Hdw. on pr. fm. 10 x 5 x 14. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

171. DELINQUENT AND DEPENDENT CHILDREN (Closed Cases), 1914--. 4 boxes, 3 bdl.
Original papers filed in closed cases of delinquent and dependent children, including summonses, petitions, decrees, records of supervision, family data, court histories, reports on family investigations, changes of placement, acceptance of children, and discharges. No obvious arr. No index. Hdw. and typed on pr. fm. Boxes 12 x 24 x 36; bdl. 9 x 14 x 15. Common vlt., 5th fl.

172. DELINQUENT AND DEPENDENT CHILDREN (Active Cases), 1931--. 3 f.b.
Original papers filed in active cases of delinquent and dependent children, including summonses, petitions, decrees, chronological records of supervision, and reports on changes of placement and acceptance of children. Arr. alph. by name of child. No index. Hdw. and typed on pr. fm. 12 x 15 x 30. Off. of probation officer, 5th fl.

173. COUNTY COURT RECORD JUVENILE, 1910--. 10 v. (20, 29, 32, 39, 41, 43, 54, 56, 58, 60). 1859-1909 in County Court Record, entry 139.
Record of proceedings in cases of delinquency, dependency, and neglected children, showing case number, term date, names of child, petitioner, and officers of court, type of case, court orders, and dates of proceedings. Arr. by date of hearing. For index, see entry 169. 1910-1919, hdw.; 1920--, typed, and typed on pr. fm. 600 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

Mothers' Pensions (See also
entry 9)

174. MOTHERS' AID, 1926--. 1 f.b.
Documents concerning mothers' pension cases, showing names of mother and children, ages and number of children, date of application, and amount and date of payment. Arr. alph. by name of mother. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 18 x 24 x 30. Off. of probation officer, 5th fl.

Inheritance Tax

175. INHERITANCE TAX (Files), 1907--. 28 f.b. (1-4, 24 not numbered). Original papers filed in inheritance tax cases, including appraisers' reports on value of estates, showing case number, names of estate, heirs, appraiser, judge, and clerk, date of report, and court order fixing amount of tax assessment. Arr. by case no. For index, 1907-16, see entry 176; 1917--, no index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 13 x 6 x 13 $\frac{1}{2}$. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

176. INDEX TO INHERITANCE FILES, 1907-16. 1 v. Index to Inheritance Tax (Files), entry 175, showing name of estate and file box number. Arr. alph. by name of estate. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 50 p. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ x $\frac{1}{2}$. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

177. TAX INHERITANCE RECORD, 1899--. 3 v. (1-3). Record of inheritance taxes levied on decedents' estates, showing case number, names of estate, attorneys, heirs, and appraiser, dates of death and hearing, appraiser's estimate of value of estate, amount of tax assessment, clerk's fees, deductible allowance, disbursements, exemptions, and tax rate. Arr. by date of hearing. Indexed alph. by name of estate. 1899-1924, hdw. on pr. fm.; 1925--, typed on pr. fm. 530 p. 18 x 13 x 3. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

178. INHERITANCE TAX DOCKET, 1899--. 3 v. (2 not numbered, 3). Docket of inheritance tax cases, showing case number, names of estate, heirs, judge, and appraiser, value of estate, amount of tax assessments, and date. Arr. by date of hearing. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 350 p. 18 x 12 x 2. Co. clk.'s off., 3rd fl.

Naturalization
(See also entries 281-285)

179. NATURALIZATION PAPERS, 1876-1905. 5 f.b. Original naturalization papers filed in county court, including declarations of intention, certificates of arrival in the United States, oaths of allegiance, petitions for final certificate, and orders of court granting citizenship. Arr. alph. by name of applicant. No index. Hdw., and hdw. on pr. fm. 10 x 5 x 14. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

180. NATURALIZATION RECORD FIRST PAPERS, 1868-1908. 1 v. Record of declarations of intention, showing name, age, address, nativity, and occupation of alien, number of years of residence in Illinois and the United States, oath of allegiance, and dates of declaration, filing, and oath. Arr. by date of filing. Indexed alph. by name of alien. Hdw. on pr. fm. 600 p. 18 x 13 x 3. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

181. NATURALIZATION RECORD FINAL, 1866-1906. 5 v. (A-D, 1). Record of final certificates of naturalization, showing names of alien, judge, sheriff, and clerk, oath of allegiance, order of court, signatures of witnesses, and dates of oath and final certificate. Arr. by date of certificate. Indexed alph. by name of applicant. Hdw. on pr. fm. 600 p. 18 x 13 x 3. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

182. NATURALIZATION RECORD SOLDIERS AND MINORS, 1868-1906. 3 v. (1 not lettered, B, 1 not lettered). Record of minors' and soldiers' petitions and final certificates of naturalization, showing name, age, and nativity of alien, renunciation of allegiance to foreign power, oath of allegiance to the United States, dates of declaration, petition, and final certificate, and service record of soldier. Arr. by date of certificate. Indexed alph. by name of alien. Hdw. on pr. fm. 500 p. 18 x 13 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

183. NATURALIZATION DOCKET, 1903-6. 1 v. Docket of naturalization cases, showing date and number of application, name of alien, book and page of entry in record, and orders of court. Arr. by date of entry. Indexed alph. by name of applicant. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 146 p. 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 12 x 2. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

V. PROBATE COURT

Jurisdiction in probate matters in Vermilion County was vested in a separate probate court from 1826 to 1849. The judge of probate was appointed by the General Assembly and held office during good behavior.¹ In 1837 it was provided that the probate court be held in each county by a probate justice of the peace who was elected by the county electorate for a four-year term;² the term was reduced in 1847 to two years.³ The jurisdiction of the probate court was transferred to the newly created county court in 1849.⁴ This situation remained unchanged in all counties throughout the second constitutional period. In 1870 the State of Illinois adopted a new constitution which authorized the General Assembly to provide for the establishment of a separate probate court in counties having a population of more than fifty thousand.⁵ The enabling legislation, enacted seven years later, set the population requirement at one

1. L.1821, p. 119; L.1823, p. 132; L.1825, p. 87.

2. L.1836-37, p. 176. The first probate justice was elected for a two-year term, the four-year term becoming effective in 1839.

3. L.1845, p. 28. Effective in 1847.

4. Constitution of 1848, Art. V, sec. 16,18; L.1849, p. 65.

5. Constitution of 1870, Art. VI, sec. 20.

hundred thousand;¹ in 1881 the figure was reduced to seventy thousand.² Present legislation makes the establishment of a separate probate court mandatory in counties having eighty-five thousand or more inhabitants, and optional in those counties with a population of between seventy thousand and eighty-five thousand.³ Vermilion County attained the lower population requirement in 1910, and a separate probate court was established in 1910.

The court's incumbent, the probate judge, is required by constitutional provision and subsequent legislation to be elected at the same time and in the same manner as the county judge. His term of office is four years.⁴ Originally his salary was fixed by the county board;⁵ however, in 1925, it was provided that in counties having less than five hundred thousand inhabitants the salary of the probate judge should be \$5,000 a year, payable in monthly installments from the county treasury.⁶ When a vacancy occurs in the office of probate judge and the unexpired term is less than one year, the Governor fills the vacancy by appointment, otherwise, a new election is held.⁷

As enunciated by the present constitution and the enabling legislation the jurisdiction of the court extends to all probate matters, the settlement of estates of deceased persons, the appointment of guardians and conservators and settlements of their accounts; in all matters relating to apprentices, and in cases of sales of real estate of deceased persons for payment of debts.⁸

Originally, the court was required to hold monthly sessions;⁹ however, since 1933 there have been no stated terms, the court being always open for the transaction of probate and other business, except that the court may adjourn from time to time at its discretion.¹⁰ The court is given power to impanel a jury for the trial of issues or matters of fact in any matter pending before it and has power to compel the attendance of jurors and witnesses.¹¹ County and probate judges may interchange with each other, hold court for each other and perform each other's¹² duties in their own or any other county when necessary or convenient. The probate judge is

1. L.1877, p. 79.

2. L.1881, p. 72.

3. L.1933, p. 453.

4. Constitution of 1870, Art. VI, sec. 20; L.1877, p. 80.

5. L.1877, p. 83.

6. L.1925, p. 336.

7. L.1877, p. 84.

8. Constitution of 1870, Art. VI, sec. 20; L.1877, p. 80.

9. L.1877, p. 80.

10. L.1933, p. 459.

11. L.1877, p. 80; L.1933, p. 460.

12. L.1903, p. 153.

Probate Court

prohibited from acting as attorney or solicitor for any administrator, executor, heirs, or other person (unless an officer of the court) interested in the estate of any deceased person, or to aid, advise, or assist in the preparation of any petition, report, or other document which is to be filed or recorded in the court in which he is judge.¹ When the probate judge is an interested party in any estate to be probated in his court, the county judge shall have jurisdiction in the matter unless he shall also be interested, in which case the matter is taken to the circuit court of the county for probate. If, however, the probate judge is interested only as a creditor, no change may be made except in relation to his claim.²

Appeals may be taken from the final orders, judgments, and decrees of the probate court to the circuit court of the county except in proceedings in applications of executors, administrators, guardians, and conservators for the sale of real estate. The appellant must give bond and security in such amount and upon such condition as the court shall require.³

Aiding the court in its jurisdiction over the administration of intestate estates and the guardianship of minors, are, respectively, the public administrator and the public guardian. Each officer is appointed quadrennially by the Governor with the advice and consent of the senate. The public administrator and public guardian are required to enter into bonds set and approved by the probate court in sums not less than \$5,000.⁴ Their duties are performed under the direction and orders of the court. The records that result from their prescribed duties appear among the records of the court with those of other administrators, executors, and guardians.

When there is no relative or creditor who will administer an intestate estate, the court commits the administration to the public administrator upon application of any person interested in the deceased estate.⁵ If a widow, next of kin, or creditor of the deceased appears within six months after the administration is granted to the public administrator, the court then revokes its grant of administration to the public administrator and orders letters of administration granted to such person interested in the estate. If, after all debts and charges against the estate which have been presented within two years after the administration of the estate was committed to such public administrator are fully paid, any balance of the intestate estate remains, the administrator causes a notice

1. L.1917, p. 327,328.

2. L.1877, p. 81; L.1933, p. 460.

3. L.1877, p. 81.

4. L.1825, p. 70-72; R.L.1829, p. 208; R.L.1833, p. 627,628; R.S.1845, p. 548; L.1871-72, p. 89; L.1881, p. 3; L.1889, p. 165.

5. R.L.1833, p. 628; R.S.1845, p. 548; L.1871-72, p. 89.

to be published requiring persons still having claims against the estate to present them to the county court within six months. If no claims are presented, the balance is paid into the county treasury, upon the expiration of the six-month period, the county remaining answerable to any future claims.¹

As already noted, the court has authority to appoint guardians of minor heirs of deceased persons.² In cases where the minor is under fourteen years of age the court appoints his guardian. When the minor is over fourteen he may nominate his own guardian, subject to the approval of the court.³ Under the direction of the court, the guardian is responsible for the custody, nurture, and tuition of his ward and the care and management of his estate. The court may assign the guardianship of the estate to one guardian and the custody and tuition of the ward to another.⁴ Within sixty days after his appointment, the guardian returns to the probate court a complete inventory of the real and personal estate of the ward in the form prescribed by law.⁵ At the end of the first year of his appointment, and every three years thereafter, he makes a settlement of his accounts. When his trust is completed or upon the death of the ward, the guardian makes final settlement and delivers over to persons entitled to them, the property and papers in his hands as guardian.⁶ Upon failure of a guardian appointed by the court to act within three months in this capacity, the court commits the guardianship of the minor to the public guardian.⁷ The latter's records appear with those of other guardians. Jurisdiction in the matter of appointing conservators for the estates of lunatics, idiots, spendthrifts, and drunkards is vested in the probate court in all counties maintaining a separate probate court.⁸

In any county having a population of more than seventy thousand and less than two hundred thousand, the judge of the probate court may appoint a shorthand reporter to take full stenographic notes of the evidence in making proofs of heirships, in the probating of wills, and in all other cases coming before the court when so directed by the judge. Such reporter holds his position at the pleasure of the judge, but his term of service may not extend beyond that of the appointing judge.⁹ Another

1. R.S.1845, p. 549; L.1871-72, p. 89,90.

2. L.1831, p. 100; L.1835, p. 36; R.S.1845, p. 265,266; L.1873-74, p. 107; L.1919, p. 583; L.1931, p. 618; L.1937, p. 660.

3. Ibid.

4. L.1871-72, p. 469; L.1877, p. 114.

5. L.1919, p. 582; L.1933, p. 644.

6. L.1871-72, p. 471; L.1919, p. 583; L.1929, p. 506.

7. L.1889, p. 165.

8. L.1919, p. 593.

9. Ibid., p. 417.

Probate Court

ministerial officer of the court is the sheriff who is required to attend, in person or by deputy, all sessions of the court, to preserve order, and execute all legal commands and process.¹

The early probate judge, 1821 to 1837, and the probate justice of the peace, 1837 to 1849, each performed the ministerial function of the probate clerk.² When probate jurisdiction was transferred to the county court at its creation in 1849, the clerk of that court served as ex-officio probate clerk.³ This situation obtained in Vermilion County until 1910 when a separate probate court was established. Since that year, by statutory provision,⁴ the court has had its own clerk, an elected officer whose term of office, like that of the probate judge, is four years. He is required to give bond with two or more sureties, to be approved by the probate judge, in the sum of not less than \$5,000.⁵ The clerk is required to attend all sessions of court, issue all process, preserve all the files and papers of the court, make, keep, and preserve complete records of all the proceedings and determinations of the court, and perform all other duties pertaining to his office as required by law or rules and orders of his court. He is required to enter of record all judgments, decrees, and orders of the court. In the performance of these duties he may, when necessary, appoint deputies for whose acts he is responsible.⁶ In all matters concerning the probate of estates of deceased persons, the granting of letters testamentary or of administration, letters of guardianship, the manner of keeping court records, the form of docket entries, journals, fee books, memorandums, and process, and the recording of papers and documents, the clerk is required to be governed by and follow all laws concerning similar matters in the county court of the state.⁷

The major records of the probate court kept by the clerk are the following:

1. Journal of all judicial proceedings and determinations of the judge.
2. A judgment docket with a direct and an indirect index: former, by name of claimant against estate; latter, by estate. In practice, the requirement of two indexes often leads to two dockets.

1. L.1877, p. 81.

2. L.1821, p. 119,120; R.L.1829, p. 215; L.1831, p. 192; L.1837, p. 177, 178; R.S.1845, p. 427,428.

3. Constitution of 1848, Art. V, sec. 16,18; L.1849, p. 63-65; R.S.1874, p. 339,340.

4. L.1877, p. 82.

5. Ibid.

6. Ibid.

7. Ibid., p. 83.

3. Books for recordation of bonds and letters of administrators, executors, guardians, and conservators; appraisement and sale bills; widows' relinquishment and selection of property; wills and their probate; annual and final reports of administrators, executors, guardians, and conservators. Generally, each category of these probate business matters is recorded separately, but the segregation is not always carefully maintained.
4. Separate dockets of unsettled estates and claims against estates, and a ledger of the accounts of executors, administrators, and guardians. Note that the dockets of probate business matters are separated from dockets of court proceedings, just as are the books of recordation of the two categories; the intention of the law to make this distinction is further shown in its granting the clerk, during vacation of the court, power to receive petitions, accept bonds, grant letters testamentary, etc.
5. Files of original documents not subject to recordation; indexes to such; records of office transactions in pursuance of the court's orders to the clerk, necessary in the latter's settlement with that body.¹

Proceedings of Court

General

184. DECEASED ESTATES, INDEX TO BOXES AND PROBATE JOURNAL, 1826--. 1 v.

Index to files and records of decedents' estates in Estate Papers, entry 187, and Probate Journal, entry 192, showing name of estate, and file box and book and page numbers. Arr. alph. by name of estate. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 700 p. 18 x 13 x 3 $\frac{1}{2}$. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

185. MINOR ESTATE, INDEX TO BOXES AND PROBATE JOURNAL, 1826--. 1 v. Index to files and records of minors' estates in Guardian Papers (Estate Papers), entry 189, and Probate Journal, entry 192, showing name of minor, book and page of entry, and file box number. Arr. alph. by name of minor. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 500 p. 18 x 13 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

1. L.1821, p. 119,120; R.L.1829, p. 215,231; L.1837, p. 429; R.S.1845, p. 427,428; L.1851, p. 193; L.1859, p. 92-94; R.S.1874, p. 260-65; L.1877, p. 63; L.1933, p. 293.

186. INCOMPETENT ESTATES, INDEX TO BOXES AND PROBATE JOURNAL, 1826--.
1 v.

Index to files and records of incompetent persons' estates in (Estate Papers in Cases of Incompetents), entry 188, and Probate Journal, entry 192, showing name of ward, file box number, and book and page of entry. Arr. alph. by name of ward. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 600 p. 18 x 13 x 3. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

187. ESTATE PAPERS, 1826--. 493 f.b. (1-493).

Files of miscellaneous papers in probate cases, including petitions, oaths, bonds, and letters of administration and executorship, wills, proofs of will, accounts current and final, inventory, appraisement, and sale bills, and widows' selections. Also contains Claims, 1826-1909, entry 190, and Assignments and Appeal Bonds, 1826-1920, entry 191. Arr. by date of document. For index, see entry 184. Hdw., typed, and hdw. and typed on pr. fm. 10 x 5 x 13. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

188. (ESTATE PAPERS IN CASES OF INCOMPETENTS), 1826--. 42 f.b. (1-42).

Probate files of papers in cases of estates of incompetent persons, including court summonses, verdicts of jury as to incompetency, petitions to appoint conservator, bonds, letters, and oaths of conservators, reports, inventories and appraisements, and sale bills. Arr. by case no. For index, see entry 186. Hdw., typed, and hdw. and typed on pr. fm. 10 x 5 x 13. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

189. GUARDIAN PAPERS (Estate Papers), 1826--. 100 f.b. (1-100).

Files of original documents in cases of minors' estates, including guardians' petitions, bonds, oaths and letters, inventories, appraisements, and sale bills, reports, petitions for sale of real estate, and final settlements. Arr. by case no. For index, see entry 185. Hdw., typed, and hdw. and typed on pr. fm. 10 x 5 x 13. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

190. CLAIMS, 1910--. 2 f.b. 1826-1909 in Estate Papers, entry 187.

Claims filed against estates showing names of estate and claimant, date, purpose, and amount of claim, and date of filing. Arr. by date of claim. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 10 x 5 x 13. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

191. ASSIGNMENTS AND APPEAL BONDS, 1921--. 2 f.b. 1826-1920 in Estate Papers, entry 187.

Copies of assignments of estates, showing legal description and value of property assigned, date of assignment, signature of assignee; appeal bonds showing date, amount, and obligations of bond, names of sureties and clerk, and date of filing. Arr. by date of assignment. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 10 x 5 x 13. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

192. PROBATE JOURNAL, 1826--. 113 v. (A-I, 1 not labeled, K-Z, 1-15, 17-20, 22-27, 29-90).

Journal of proceedings of cases in probate court including widows' relinquishments, 1826-1901, 1903--, showing names of petitioner, estate, heirs, witnesses, and officers of court, petitions, proceedings on claims, decrees, orders of court, and date. Also contains Insane Record, 1849-83, 1908-12, entry 143; Assignment Record, 1826-76, 1900--, entry 193; Administrators' Records, Oaths, Bonds and Letters, 1826, entry 197; Record of Miscellaneous Bonds and Letters, 1826, entry 198, including Record of Miscellaneous Bonds and Letters Will Annexed, entry 200, and De Bonis Non Bonds and Letters, entry 201; Bonds For Sale of Real Estate Administrator and Guardian, 1826-97, entry 199; Guardians' Record Bonds and Letters, 1826, entry 202; Executors' Record, Bonds and Letters, 1826, entry 203; Conservators' Record, Oaths, Bonds and Letters, 1826-85, entry 204; Heirship Record, 1826-1934, entry 205; Co-partnership Record Inventory and Sale, 1826-75, entry 209; Appraisement Record, 1826-56, entry 210; Widows' Selection Record, 1826-81, entry 211; Sales Record, 1826-56, entry 212, including Inventory Record, entry 206, which in turn includes Guardian Inventory Record, entry 207; Private Sales Record, 1826-56, entry 213; Deceased Report Record, 1826-81, entry 214, including Report of Distribution (Deceased Estates), entry 216; Guardians' and Conservators' Report Record, 1826-81, entry 217, including Report of Distribution Record - Minors, Deceased (Incompetent), entry 218; Miscellaneous Report Record, 1826-1920, entry 219; and Probate Judgment Docket, 1826-64, entry 228. Arr. by case no. For indexes, see entries 184, 185, 186. 1826-1915, hdw.; 1916--, typed. 50 - 550 p. 14 x 8 x $\frac{1}{2}$ - 16 x 12 x 2. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

193. ASSIGNMENT RECORD, 1877-99. 2 v. (1, 2). 1826-76, 1900-- in Probate Journal, entry 192.

Record of assignments of lands, chattels, and personal effects of estates to be sold for the benefit of creditors, showing names of estate assignee, debtors and assignee's sureties, list and value of property, list and value of exempt articles, name and address of creditors, amount of claims, report of assets of debtor against claims of creditor, and date. Arr. by case no. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. 550 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

Wills, Bonds, Letters (See
also entry 187)

194. OLD WILLS, 1895--. 3 f.b. (A-C).
Files of wills not probated, showing names of deceased, heirs, witnesses, and executor, disposition of estate, and dates of will and filing. Arr. by date of filing. No index. Hdw., and hdw. on pr. fm. 10 x 5 x 13. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

195. WILL RECORD, 1827--. 21 v. (A-U).

Copies of wills, applications to probate wills, and proofs of death, showing names of deceased, heirs, witnesses, petitioner, clerk, and executor, dates of death, will, hearing, proof of will, filing, and recording, and disposition of estate. Also contains Administrators' Records, Oaths, Bonds and Letters, 1827-54, entry 197; Record of Miscellaneous Bonds and Letters, 1827-72, entry 198, including Record of Miscellaneous Bonds and Letters Will Annexed, entry 200, and De Bonis Non Bonds and Letters, entry 201; Guardians' Record Bonds and Letters, 1827-55, entry 202; and Executors' Record, Bonds and Letters, 1827-65, entry 203. Arr. by date of recording. For index, see entry 196. 1827-1917, hdw.; 1918--, typed. 550 p. 18 x 12 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

196. INDEX TO WILLS, 1827--. 2 v.

Index to Will Record, entry 195, showing name of deceased and book and page of entry. Arr. alph. by name of deceased. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 400 p. 18 x 12 x 2. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

197. ADMINISTRATORS' RECORDS, OATHS, BONDS AND LETTERS, 1855--.

17 v. (E-K, M-V). 1826 in Probate Journal, entry 192; 1827-54 in Will Record, entry 195.

Copies of administrators' petitions, oaths, bonds, and letters, showing names of estate, administrator, sureties, petitioner, and heirs, dates of petition, oath, bond, and letters, amount and terms of bond, and acknowledgment. Arr. by date of instrument. 1855-63, no index; 1864--, indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. on pr. fm. 450 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

198. RECORD OF MISCELLANEOUS BONDS AND LETTERS, 1873--. 2 v. (A, B).

1826 in Probate Journal, entry 192; 1827-72 in Will Record, entry 195.

Copies of administrators' oaths, bonds, and letters to collect, showing names of estate, administrator, and sureties, date, terms, and amount of bond, and dates of petition, oath, letters, and acknowledgment. Also contains Record of Miscellaneous Bonds and Letters Will Annexed, 1873-1914, entry 200, and De Bonis Non Bonds and Letters, 1873-1933, entry 201. Arr. by date of instrument. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. on pr. fm. 420 p. 18 x 12 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

199. BONDS FOR SALE OF REAL ESTATE ADMINISTRATOR AND GUARDIAN, 1898--.

4 v. (L-O). 1826-97 in Probate Journal, entry 192.

Copies of bonds for sale of real estate, showing names of estate, sureties, and administrator or guardian, amount, terms, and date of bond, acknowledgment, and date of filing. Arr. by date of bond. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. on pr. fm. 275 p. 18 x 12 x 2. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

200. RECORD OF MISCELLANEOUS BONDS AND LETTERS WILL ANNEXED, 1915--.
2 v. (C, D). 1826 in Probate Journal, entry 192; 1827-72 in
Will Record, entry 195; 1873-1914 in Record of Miscellaneous
Bonds and Letters, entry 198.

Copies of petitions, oaths, bonds, and letters of administrators with will annexed, showing names of estate, heirs, administrator, and sureties, dates of petition, oath, bond, and letters, amount and terms of bond, oath of office, and acknowledgment. Arr. by date of instrument. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. on pr. fm. 300 p. 18 x 12 x 2. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

201. DE BONIS NON BONDS AND LETTERS, 1934--. 1 v. (1). 1826 in Probate Journal, entry 192; 1827-72 in Will Record, entry 195; 1873-1933 in Record of Miscellaneous Bonds and Letters, entry 198.

Copies of petitions, oaths, bonds, and letters of administrators de bonis non, showing names of estate, heirs, administrator, and sureties, dates of petition, oath, bond, and letters, amount and terms of bond, and acknowledgment. Arr. by date of instrument. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. on pr. fm. 200 p. 18 x 12 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

202. GUARDIANS' RECORD BONDS AND LETTERS, 1856--. 12 v. (F-Q). 1826
in Probate Journal, entry 192; 1827-55 in Will Record, entry 195.
Record of guardians' petitions, letters, bonds, and oaths, showing names of estate, minor, guardian, and sureties, dates of petition, oath, bond, and letters, amount and terms of bond, and acknowledgment. Arr. by date of instrument. Indexed alph. by name of minor. Hdw. on pr. fm. 550 p. 18 x 12 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

203. EXECUTORS' RECORD, BONDS AND LETTERS, 1866--. 7 v. (A-G). 1826
in Probate Journal, entry 192; 1827-65 in Will Record, entry 195.
Copies of executors' petitions, oaths, bonds, and letters, showing names of deceased, executor, and sureties, dates of petition, oath, bond, and letters of appointment, amount and obligations of bond, and acknowledgment. Arr. by date of instrument. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. on pr. fm. 500 p. 18 x 12 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

204. CONSERVATORS' RECORD, OATHS, BONDS AND LETTERS, 1886--.
2 v. (A, B). 1826-85 in Probate Journal, entry 192.
Copies of oaths, petitions, bonds, and letters of conservators, showing dates, names of minor, petitioner, and sureties, amount and terms of bond, and acknowledgment. Arr. by date of instrument. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. on pr. fm. 600 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

Heirship

205. HEIRSHIP RECORD, 1935--. 1 v. (1). 1826-1934 in Probate Journal,
entry 192.
Record of evidence establishing right of heirship to decedents' estates, showing name of heir, relationship to other heirs, certification of evidence by judge, orders of court, and dates of proceedings. Arr. by date of proceedings. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Typed on pr. fm. 650 p. 18 x 12 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

Inventories and Appraisements

206. INVENTORY RECORD, 1864--. 34 v. (A-Z, A1-A8). 1826-56 in Probate Journal, entry 192; 1857-63 in Sales Record, entry 212. Record of inventories of decedents' estates, showing names of estate and administrator or executor, itemized list and value of real and personal property, notes, accounts, and annuities due, total, oath and signature of administrator or executor, and dates of recording and filing. Also contains Guardian Inventory Record, 1864-71, entry 207. Arr. by date of inventory. Indexed alph. by name of estate. 1864-1934, hdw. on pr. fm.; 1935--, typed on pr. fm. 280 p. 18 x 12 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

207. GUARDIAN INVENTORY RECORD, 1872--. 4 v. (A-D). 1826-56 in Probate Journal, entry 192; 1857-63 in Sales Record, entry 212; 1864-71 in Inventory Record, entry 206. Record of inventory of minors' estates, showing names of minor and guardian, list and value of real and personal property, cash on hand, status of notes, accounts, and annuities, total, oath and signature of guardian, and dates of inventory and filing. Arr. by date of inventory. Indexed alph. by name of minor. Hdw. on pr. fm. 575 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

208. CONSERVATORS' RECORD OF INVENTORIES AND REPORTS, 1897--. 5 v. (A-E). Record of conservators' inventories and annual and final reports, showing names of ward, conservator, judge, and clerk, list and value of property, notes, and annuities, date, amount, and purpose of receipts and expenditures, balance on hand, and dates of inventory, report, and filing. Arr. by date of inventory or report. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. on pr. fm. 500 p. 12 x 16 x 4. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.
For prior record of reports, see entry 217; for prior record of inventories, see entry 206.

209. CO-PARTNERSHIP RECORD INVENTORY AND SALE, 1876--. 2 v. (1, 2). 1826-75 in Probate Journal, entry 192. Record of proceedings in co-partnership inventories, appraisements, and sales, showing names of deceased, partner, corporation, appraiser, purchaser, and petitioner, dates of inventory, appraisal, and sale, list and value of property and accounts, amount and terms of sale, and date of filing. Arr. by date of filing. Indexed alph. by name of deceased. Hdw. 600 p. 18 x 12 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

210. APPRAISEMENT RECORD, 1872--. 20 v. (B-U). Missing: 1860-71. 1826-56 in Probate Journal, entry 192; 1857-59 in Sales Record, entry 212. Record of appraisals of estates in probate, showing names of estate, appraiser, widow, and minor heirs, date of appraisers' warrant, oath, appointment, and appraisement bill, itemized statement and value of property, total value, and amount of allowance to widow and minors. Arr. by date of appraisement. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. on pr. fm. 290 p. 18 x 12 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

Probate Court - Proceedings
of Court

Widows' Relinquishment and Selection
(See also entry 88[v])

211. WIDOWS' SELECTION RECORD, 1882--. 6 v. (1-6). 1826-81 in Probate Journal, entry 192.

Record of widows' selection of articles from estate, showing names of estate, widow, and appraiser, list of articles of selection and allowance, appraised value, amount of cash allowance, date of filing, and statement of appraiser. Arr. by date of filing. Indexed alph. by name of estate. 1882-1934, hdw. on pr. fm.; 1935--, typed on pr. fm. 450 p. 18 x 12 x 2. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

Petitions, Decrees, Reports of Sale

212. SALES RECORD, 1857--. 5 v. (A-E). Title varies: Bills and Sale Bills (Inventory, Appraisement, and Sales Record), A, 1857-59. 1826-56 in Probate Journal, entry 192.

Public real estate sales record showing names of estate, purchaser, and administrator, executor, guardian, or conservator, legal description of property, and date, term, and amount of sale. Also contains Inventory Record, 1857-63, entry 206, including Guardian Inventory Record, entry 207; Appraisement Record, 1857-59, entry 210; and Private Sales Record, 1857-59, entry 213. Arr. by date of purchase. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. on pr. fm. 400 p. 18 x 12 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

213. PRIVATE SALES RECORD, 1860--. 4 f.b. (B-E). 1826-56 in Probate Journal, entry 192; 1857-59 in Sales Record, entry 212.

Record of private sales of personal property of estates in probate, showing names of estate, purchaser, and administrator, executor, guardian, or conservator, list of articles sold, and date, place, and amount of sale. Arr. by date of sale. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. on pr. fm. 400 p. 18 x 12 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

Reports, Current and Final Accounts

214. DECEASED REPORT RECORD, 1882--. 32 v. (1-53 not consecutive). 1826-81 in Probate Journal, entry 192.

Copies of annual and final reports of administrators and executors, showing names of estate, administrator or executor, and judge, amount, purpose, and dates of receipts and expenditures, totals, balance on hand, request for discharge, and dates of request, discharge, and report. Also contains Report of Distribution (Deceased Estates), 1882-89, entry 216. Arr. by date of report. Indexed alph. by name of estate. 1882-1934, hdw. on pr. fm.; 1935--, typed on pr. fm. 300 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

215. GUARDIANS' REPORT RECORD, 1897--. 13 v. (10, 11, 15, 19, 20, 22, 24, 28, 31, 36, 38, 45, 52). 1882-96 in Guardians' and Conservators' Report Record, entry 217.

Guardians' record of annual and final reports, showing names of estate, guardian, minor, and judge, dates of report and filing, items of receipt, date and amount of receipts and disbursements, and recapitulation. Arr. by date of report. Indexed alph. by name of estate. 1897-1935, hdw. on pr. fm.; 1936--, typed on pr. fm. 300 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

216. REPORT OF DISTRIBUTION (Deceased Estates), 1913--. 2 v. (27, 28). 1826-81 in Probate Journal, entry 192; 1882-89 in Deceased Report Record, entry 214; 1890-1912 in Report of Distribution Record - Minors, Deceased (Incompetent), entry 218.

Record of reports of final distribution of decedents' estates, showing names of estate and administrator or executor, balance on hand after settlement of accounts, amount and date of payment, name of payee, and date of report. Arr. by date of report. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. on pr. fm. 600 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

217. GUARDIANS' AND CONSERVATORS' REPORT RECORD, 1882-96. 4 v. (2, 5-7). 1826-81 in Probate Journal, entry 192.

Record of reports of guardians and conservators, showing names of estate, guardian or conservator, and judge, items of receipts and expenditures, recapitulation, and dates of report and filing. Also contains Report of Distribution Record - Minors, Deceased (Incompetent), 1882-89, entry 218. Subsequent Guardians' Report Record, entry 215, kept separately. Arr. by date of report. Indexed alph. by name of ward. Hdw. on pr. fm. 300 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

For subsequent record of conservators' reports, see entry 208.

218. REPORT OF DISTRIBUTION RECORD - MINORS, DECEASED (Incompetent), 1890--. 2 v. (9, 17). 1826-81 in Probate Journal, entry 192; 1882-89 in Guardians' and Conservators' Report Record, entry 217.

Report of final distribution of minors' and wards' estates, showing names of minor or ward and guardian or conservator, balance on hand after settlement of accounts, date and amount of payment, name of payee, and date of report. Also contains Report of Distribution (Deceased Estates), 1890-1912, entry 216. Arr. by date of report. Indexed alph. by name of minor or ward. Hdw. on pr. fm. 600 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

219. MISCELLANEOUS REPORT RECORD, 1921--. 7 v. (35, 43, 48-52). 1826-1920 in Probate Journal, entry 192.

Record of miscellaneous reports that do not fit printed forms, of administrator, executor, guardian or conservator, showing names of administrator, executor, guardian, or conservator, estate, and judge, date, amount, and purpose of receipts and expenditures, recapitulation, and dates of report and filing. Arr. by date of report. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Typed. 300 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

220. DECEASED ESTATE LEDGER, 1840--. 28 v. (3 not labeled, H-J, L, M, 1840-88; 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11-25, 1882--). Title varies: Estate Ledger, 3 v., 1840-69.

Ledger accounts of decedents' estates, showing names of estate and administrator or executor, items of debits and credits, balance on hand, and dates. Also contains Guardians' Estate Ledger, 1840-67, entry 221. Arr. by dates of receipts and expenditures. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 500 p. 18 x 13 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

221. GUARDIANS' ESTATE LEDGER, 1868-1910. 9 v. (G, H, K, N, 2, 6-8, 10). 1840-67 in Deceased Estate Ledger, entry 220.

Guardians' ledger accounts of estates, showing names of minor or ward and guardian or conservator, items of debits and credits, balance, and date. Arr. by date of receipt or expenditure. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 500 p. 18 x 13 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

222. ACCOUNTS CURRENT, 1836-75. 4 v. (A, B, 1836-52; C, D, 1850-75). Ledger account of liabilities of estates in administration, showing names of estate, administrator, and creditors, amount of liability, and date of payment. Arr. by date of payment. 1836-43, 1857-75, indexed alph. by name of estate; 1844-56, no index. Hdw. 350 p. 16 x 12 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. V. A, B, 1836-52, common vlt., 5th fl.; v. C, D, 1850-75, pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

Dockets

223. JUDGE'S JOURNAL (Docket), 1850--. 51 v. (A-C, E-L, K-Z, 1850-95; 1-5, 1893-99; 3 not labeled, 1897-1901; 7-13, 1900-1910; 1 not labeled, 15-25, 1906--).

Judge's docket of probate cases, showing names of estate, petitioner, sureties, witnesses, and officers of court, abstract of proceedings, orders of court, and dates of proceedings. Also contains Judge's Insane Docket, 1850-92, entry 151; Judge's Juvenile Docket, 1850-1906, entry 156; Executors' and Administrators' Docket, 1850-1929, entry 224; and Guardians' and Conservators' Docket, 1850-1929, entry 226. Arr. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. 1850-59, binding and paper poor. 400 p. 18 x 12 x 2. V. A-C, E-I, K-Z, 1850-95, 1-5, 1893-99, 3 not labeled, 1897-1901, 1 not labeled, 1906-10, common vlt., 5th fl.; v. 7-13, 15-25, 1900--, pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

224. EXECUTORS' AND ADMINISTRATORS' DOCKET, 1930--. 5 v. 1850-1929 in Judge's Journal (Docket), entry 223.

Docket of proceedings for discharging executors and administrators, showing dates of petition and letters, claims allowable, final settlement, and reason for and date of discharge. Arr. by date of entry. No index. 1930-34, hdw. under pr. hdgs.; 1935--, hdw. on pr. fm. 700 p. 20 x 12 x 4. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

225. CITATION AND PETITION DOCKET, 1885--. 15 v. (E-O, O-R).
Judge's docket of miscellaneous citations and petitions, including citations and petitions to sell real estate to pay debts, petitions for appointment of conservators, extension of mortgages, restoration of citizenship, and execution of deeds, showing case number, term date, name of petitioner, and orders of court. Arr. by date of entry. 1885-1913, no index; 1914--, indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 300 p. 18 x 12 x 2. V. E-K, 1885-96, common vlt., 5th fl.; v. L-O, O-R, 1897--, pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

226. GUARDIANS' AND CONSERVATORS' DOCKET, 1930--. 3 v. 1850-1929
in Judge's Journal (Docket), entry 223.

Docket of proceedings in discharge of guardian or conservator and petition to withdraw funds from incompetent's deposits for his use, showing names of guardian or conservator and minor or ward, date of petition, amount and purpose of withdrawal, proceedings in settlement of estates, and reason for and date of discharge. Arr. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 700 p. 20 x 12 x 4. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

227. CLAIM DOCKET, 1859--. 36 v. (A-Z, 1-10). Title varies: Probate Judgment Docket, A-G, 1859-91.

Docket of claims filed against estates, showing names of estate, executor or administrator, and claimant, date, nature, and amount of claim, and date of filing. Arr. by date of claim. Indexed alph. by name of claimant. 1859-1923, hdw. under pr. hdgs.; 1924-34, hdw. on pr. fm.; 1935--, typed on pr. fm. 550 p. 18 x 12 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

228. PROBATE JUDGMENT DOCKET, 1865--. 25 v. (A-Q, Q-U, U-W).
1826-64 in Probate Journal, entry 192.

Docket of judgments on claims against estates, showing names of claimant and estate, date, amount, and nature of claim, orders of court, and date of judgment. Arr. by date of claim. For index, 1865-1932, see entry 229; 1933--, indexed alph. by names of estate and claimant. 1865-1932, hdw. on pr. fm.; 1933--, typed. 540 p. 18 x 12 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

229. INDEX TO PROBATE JUDGMENT DOCKET, DIRECT AND INDIRECT, 1865-1932.
3 v.

Index to Probate Judgment Docket, entry 228, showing name of estate and claimant, and book and page of entry. Arr. alph. by names of estate and claimant. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 500 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

230. ESTATE DOCKET, 1869--. 6 v. (A, E-I). Missing: 1890-1912.
Title varies: Probate Estate Docket, A, 1869-89.

Docket of proceedings in cases of decedents' estates, showing names of estate, administrator or executor, sureties, widow, and heirs, date of letters, amount of bond, and summary of proceedings on estate. Also contains Guardian and Conservator Estate Docket, 1869-81, 1892--, entry 231. Arr. by date of proceedings. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 318 p. 18 x 12 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

231. GUARDIAN AND CONSERVATOR ESTATE DOCKET, 1882-91. 1 v. 1869-31, 1892-- in Estate Docket, entry 230.

Docket of proceedings in cases of estates of minors and incompetent persons, showing names of guardian or conservator, minor or ward, and sureties, age of minor or ward, date and amount of bond, dates of letters, and summary of proceedings on estate. Arr. by date of bond. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 300 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

Fee Books

232. PROBATE FEE BOOK (Estates), 1856--. 32 v. (A, B, B-L, O-X, Z, A1-A8).

Register of fees received in cases of decedents' estates, showing names of estate, and administrator or executor, itemized list and amount of fees, case number, date of payment, and name of payer. Also contains Probate Fee Book (Minors and Incompetents), 1856-92, entry 233; from 1893-1915, some of these records have been transcribed into the same probate fee book for minors and incompetents. Arr. by date of receipt. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 600 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

233. PROBATE FEE BOOK (Minors and Incompetents), 1893--.

7 v. (M, N, P, S, T, Z, ZI). Title varies: Probate Fee Book Minors, Incompetent, Estates, M, P, 1893-1915. 1856-92 in Probate Fee Book (Estates), entry 232.

Register of fees received from cases of minors' and wards' estates, showing names of estate and guardian or conservator, itemized list and amount of fees, date of payment, and name of payer. Also contains a few transcribed entries of fees received in cases of decedents' estates, 1893-1915. Arr. by date of receipt. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 600 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Pro. clk.'s off., 2nd fl.

Receipts and Expenditures

234. VOUCHERS AND REPORTS OF PROBATE CLERK, 1911--. 16 f.b.

Monthly and semiannual reports, vouchers, and cancelled checks for cash receipts and disbursements, showing names of payer and payee, date, amount, and purpose of receipts and expenditures, and balance on hand. Arr. by date of instrument. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 10 x 5 x 13. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

235. REGISTER OF FEES, 1911--. 3 v.

Probate clerk's fee and expense register showing nature and amount of fees, date of payment, name of payee, and date, amount, and purpose of expenditure. Arr. by date of receipt or expenditure. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 300 p. 15 x 12 x 2. Pro. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

VI. CIRCUIT COURT

The circuit court has original jurisdiction of all causes in law and equity and acts as a court of appeals in probate matters and causes cognizable by the county court and justices of the peace.¹ In addition, it is one of the courts capable of having naturalization jurisdiction according to Federal statutes.²

Originally, the circuit court was held in Vermilion County by justices of the Supreme Court.³ In 1835 the judiciary was reorganized and a circuit judge was appointed by the General Assembly for the district serving Vermilion County. All of the laws requiring Supreme Court justices to hold circuit courts were repealed by this legislation.⁴ The new plan of organization was in effect for a brief period of six years, for in 1841 additional associate justices of the Supreme Court were appointed by joint ballot of the General Assembly, which justices, together with the other justices of the Supreme Court, held the circuit courts.⁵ Then in 1849 another change was made in accordance with the second constitution which provided for the election of circuit judges by the judicial district electorate.⁶ The Constitution of 1870 altered the circuit districts and established population requirements for counties that may comprise a circuit.⁷ From 1849 to the present the circuit judges have been elected officers of the judicial district electorate. The fifth circuit is made up of five counties, one of which is Vermilion.⁸

Three circuit judges who serve for six-year terms are elected for the district. Before entering upon the duties of his office, each circuit judge is required to subscribe to an oath which he files with the Secretary of State.⁹ The salary for those circuit court judges elected after the first Monday of June, 1933 was set at \$7,200 and for those elected after the

1. Constitution of 1870, Art. VI, sec. 12; L.1871-72, p. 109; R.S.1874, p. 344; L.1895, p. 189; L.1933, p. 688; L.1935, p. 1.
2. 2 U.S.S.L. 155; U.S.R.S. 1789-1874, p. 378-80; 34 U.S.S.L. 596; 37 U.S.S.L. 737; 44 U.S.S.L. 709.
3. R.L.1829, p. 48.
4. L.1835, p. 150,151.
5. L.1841, p. 173; R.S.1845, p. 143.
6. Constitution of 1848, Art. V, sec. 7,15.
7. Constitution of 1870, Art. VI, sec. 13.
8. L.1933, p. 436.
9. Constitution of 1870, Art. VI, sec. 12; L.1933, p. 436.

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first Monday of June, 1939, the amount was increased to \$8,000. The salaries are paid from the state treasury.¹

The hearings of several of the election contests are held before this court. Jurisdiction is granted to the court to hear and determine contests of the election of judges of the Supreme Court, judges of the circuit court, and members of the State Board of Equalization; but no judge of the circuit court is allowed to sit upon the hearing of any case in which he is a party.² The circuit court also hears and determines the election contests of some of the local and county offices. Those include contests of judge of the county court, mayors of cities, president of the county board, presidents of villages, elections in reference to removal of county seats and in reference to any other subject which may be submitted to the vote of the people of the county. The circuit court has concurrent jurisdiction with the county court in cases of contested elections under the latter's jurisdiction.³

Included under the jurisdiction of the circuit court are also appeals from the Illinois Commerce Commission's rules, regulations, orders, or decisions. Such appeals may be taken to the circuit court serving Vermilion County when the subject matter of the hearing is situated in this county. The appeal may be heard for the purpose of having the reasonableness or lawfulness of the rule, regulation, order, or decision inquired into and determined.⁴

To expedite the handling of litigation, a branch circuit court may be held at the same time that the main or regular circuit court for Vermilion County is in session. A branch court is held by any circuit judge or by a judge of any other circuit called in for the purpose of hearing and deciding motions and settling the issues in any or all causes pending in the circuit court, and for the purpose of hearing chancery causes and cases at law which are pending in such court for that term. The presiding judge of the main circuit court assigns to the branch court as many of the law and chancery cases as the presiding judge of the branch court will possibly have time to hear.⁵

1. L.1933, p. 621; L.1937, p. 189,606. In 1835 the salary of the circuit judge was \$750 per annum (L.1835, p. 167). The Constitution of 1870 set the salary at \$3,000 until otherwise provided by law (Constitution of 1870, Art. VI, sec. 16). A few of the recent changes were: from 1919 to 1925 for judges elected during this period, \$6,500; for the period 1925 to 1933, those elected received \$8,000 per year (L.1919, p. 553,554; L.1925, p. 400; L.1931, p. 148).
2. L.1899, p. 152.
3. L.1871-72, p. 396; L.1895, p. 170.
4. L.1921, p. 742,743.
5. L.1873-74, p. 82,83; L.1905, p. 146.

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Also, to aid in the speedy administration of justice, the judges, or a majority of them, may by an order entered of record in the office of the clerk of the circuit court, dispense with either or both the grand and petit juries for any term or part of term of the circuit court, and may designate what term or portion thereof shall be devoted to criminal business, and what term or portion thereof to civil business.¹

Each of the three judges of the circuit court is authorized to appoint one official shorthand reporter. This appointee is required to be skilled in verbatim reporting and is not allowed to hold more than one such official appointment. The appointment is in writing and is required to be filed in the office of the auditor of public accounts. The reporter holds office until his appointment is revoked by the appointing judge or until the termination of the judge's term. When the official reporter is absent or disabled, the presiding judge may appoint any other competent reporter to act during such absence or disability. The substitute is paid for his services by the official reporter. The reporter causes full stenographic notes of the evidence in all trials before the court to be taken down and transcript of the same to be correctly made if desired by either party to the suit, their attorneys, or the judge of the court. Each of the reporters receives and is paid out of the state treasury an annual salary of \$3,240. The salaries are paid out monthly on the warrant of the auditor of public accounts.²

The probation officer for adult probationers is an appointee of the circuit court.³ His services extend throughout the county. Courts exercising criminal or quasi-criminal jurisdiction are given power to release on probation adult or juvenile offenders found guilty of committing certain specified offenses.⁴ In the performance of his prescribed duties, the probation officer principally serves the county and circuit courts. He is required to give bond as determined by the circuit court in a sum not exceeding \$5,000 and is subject to the rules of and removal by the appointing court.⁵ Vermilion County is allowed two probation officers under the allowance of one for each fifty thousand, or fraction thereof, of population.⁶

The probation officer is compensated at a rate determined by the county board. In the performance of his duties, he is required to investigate the cases of defendants requesting probation; notify the court

1. L.1835, p. 168; L.1873-74, p. 81; L.1933, p. 441,442.

2. L.1933, p. 464.

3. L.1911, p. 280.

4. Ibid., p. 277.

5. Ibid., p. 280,281; L.1915, p. 380,381.

6. L.1915, p. 380. School census to be basis for determining population.

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of previous conviction or probation; make reports to the respective courts; keep a set of records as described below; take charge of, and watch over, all persons placed on probation in his county, and all probationers moving from another county into his county. He is also required to notify probation officers in other counties of any probationers under his supervision who may move into those counties.¹

The reports made by the probation officer to the courts are kept by the clerk in the respective cases. The courts' probation records include orders granting or refusing release on probation, probationers' bonds, the reports of probation officers noted above, and discharge of probationers.

The probation officer is required to keep complete accurate records of investigated cases, including descriptions of the investigated persons, the action of the court, and the subsequent history of probationers. These records are open to inspection by any judge or by any probation officer pursuant to a court order and are not public records.²

Unlike the judges of the circuit court who are elected by the judicial district electorate, the clerk of this court is elected by the county electorate.³ This official performs the ministerial duties of the circuit court of Vermilion County and files and preserves its records as well as those of the branch circuit courts.⁴ He is commissioned by the Governor and before entering upon the duties of his office, gives bond with sureties which are approved by any two of the judges of the court. His bond is given in the sum of not less than \$5,000 as agreed upon by the judges.⁵ The oath to which he subscribes is filed with the Secretary of State.⁶ If a vacancy occurs in this office, and the unexpired term does not exceed one year, the court is required to fill such vacancy by appointment of a clerk pro tempore. The appointee is then required to qualify for office in the same manner as the clerk of the circuit court. When the appointment is made, the court notifies the Governor of the filled vacancy. The Governor in turn, as soon as practicable, issues a writ of election for the circuit court clerk.⁶

The clerk of the circuit court was first appointed by the circuit judge in Vermilion County.⁷ He kept a record of all the oaths that he

1. L.1911, p. 281,282; L.1915, p. 381,382.

2. L.1911, p. 277-84; L.1915, p. 378-84.

3. Constitution of 1848, Art. V, sec. 7,21,29; Constitution of 1870, Art. X, sec. 8.

4. L.1905, p. 147.

5. R.S.1874, p. 260.

6. L.1873-74, p. 95.

7. Constitution of 1818, Art. IV, sec. 6; R.L.1833, p. 152; R.S.1845, p. 146.

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administered and certified a copy annually to the Secretary of State.¹ The clerk preserved a complete record of all proceedings and determinations of the court of which he was clerk.² At each term of the circuit court, the clerk inquired into the condition of the treatment of prisoners and was required to see that all prisoners were humanely treated.³ This authority was in later years, and is at present, delegated to the circuit court.⁴ One of the early requisites of this office was for the clerk of the circuit court to reside near the county seat in order that he could attend to his duties daily. In the event that it were not possible for him to be in daily attendance, the presiding judge was to fill such vacancy.⁵ The Constitution of 1848 made the clerk of the circuit court an elective officer of the county with a four-year term. This arrangement has continued until the present.⁶

The clerk is able to perform the several duties of his office with the aid of his staff which consists of assistants and deputy clerks who are appointed by him in a number determined by rule of the circuit court.⁷ This order is entered as of record and the compensation of such assistants and deputies is set by the county board.⁸

Among the records kept by the clerk for the circuit court are the following:⁹

1. Books of record of the proceedings and judgments of the court with alphabetical indexes by parties. Proceedings are recorded at length only in cases designated by law, or when the court at the motion and assumption of expense by one of the parties, so orders. In practice, from an early date the court record has been broken down into segregated types of proceedings and judgments.
2. "Plaintiff-Defendant Index to Court Records" and "Defendant-Plaintiff Index to Court Records," intended to be separate records, but frequently combined in a single volume with the two indexes segregated in each volume.

1. L.1819, p. 349.

2. R.L.1829, p. 44; R.L.1833, p. 152; R.S.1845, p. 147.

3. R.L.1827, p. 248.

4. R.S.1874, p. 616; L.1923, p. 423.

5. R.L.1829, p. 35.

6. Constitution of 1848, Art. V, sec. 29; Constitution of 1870, Art. X, sec. 9.

7. L.1831, p. 49; Constitution of 1870, Art. X, sec. 9.

8. Constitution of 1870, Art. X, sec. 9.

9. The Civil Practice Act of 1933 grants authority to the circuit court, subject to rules promulgated by the Supreme Court and not inconsistent with statutory requirements, to make such rules as they may deem expedient, regulating dockets and calendars of said court (L.1933, p. 786).

3. A general docket in which all suits are entered in the order they are commenced.
4. A judgment and execution docket containing a column for the entry of satisfaction or other disposition. In practice, an execution docket is frequently set up independently.
5. Additional dockets, designated as the clerk's, judge's, and bar docket. In practice, the bar docket has tended to drop out of use.
6. A fee book in which costs and fees are to be entered under the proper title of the case. In practice, separate series of volumes are maintained under such titles of causes.
7. Transcripts of proceedings in appeals from justices', city, and foreign courts, dockets thereof, and transcripts of judgments for liens, etc., from the former. Separate well-bound books are required to be kept for each city court. These books are to contain an alphabetical docket of all judgment decrees rendered in the city court. They also provide for entry of data relating to the filing of the transcript with the corresponding number of the transcript.¹
8. Naturalization proceedings from petitions to final certificates; Federal statutes allow the circuit court to exercise jurisdiction.
9. Reports to the court from its designated masters in chancery, the state's attorney, and the coroner's inquest juries.
10. Jury venires, summonses, certificates, etc.
11. Original documents used in court hearings and determinations. These documents are of particular importance because in a large number of cases the complete proceedings are not spread on court record.
12. Monthly reports of the warden of the county jail, containing a list of all prisoners in his custody, showing causes of commitment and names of persons by whom committed.²

1. R.S.1874, p. 347; L.1901, p. 136,137.

2. R.L.1827, p. 217; R.S.1845, p. 323-26, 414,418,419,518; L.1865, p. 79, 80; L.1871-72, p. 325; R.S.1874, p. 262,263,339,616; L.1877, p. 77; L.1895, p. 217; L.1933, p. 442,677; 2 U.S.S.L. 153-55; U.S.R.S.1789-1874, p. 378-80; 34 U.S.S.L. 596-607,709,710; 45 U.S.S.L. 1514,1515.

Proceedings of Court

General Indexes

236. PLAINTIFFS' AND DEFENDANTS' INDEX, 1831--. 54 v. (2 not lettered, 1831-72, plaintiff and defendant; A-Z, 1873--, plaintiff; A-Z, 1873--, defendant).

Index to Common Law Papers, entry 238; Criminal Law Papers, entry 239; Chancery Law Papers, entry 240; Circuit Court Record, entry 247; Chancery Record, entry 248; and Criminal Record, entry 249, showing names of plaintiff and defendant, case number, book and page of entry, and file box numbers. Arr. alph. by names of plaintiff and defendant. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 300 p. 18 x 13 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Cir. clk.'s vlt., 4th fl.

237. ESTATE INDEX, 1826--. 1 v.

Index to case records of administrators, executors, and guardians to satisfy judgments against estates in Circuit Court Record, entry 247; Chancery Record, entry 248; and Complete Record, entry 254, showing names of estate, plaintiff, and defendant, and book and page of court record. Arr. alph. by name of estate. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 640 p. 18 x 13 x 3 $\frac{1}{2}$. Cir. clk.'s vlt., 4th fl.

Case Papers (See also
entry 291)

238. COMMON LAW PAPERS, 1831--. 682 f.b. (677 f.b., 1831--; 5 f.b., 1935--). Title varies: Law Papers, 92 f.b., 1831-74.

Original documents in common law cases, including bills of complaint, summonses, executions, citations, subpoenas, affidavits of witnesses, defendants' answers, instructions to jury, stipulations, attachments for contempt of court, sheriffs' certificates of levy, pleas, motions for new trial, transcripts of evidence, verdicts of jury, including bills for divorce, 1935--, and orders of court. Also contains Chancery Law Papers, 1831-73, entry 240. Arr. by case no. For index, see entry 236. Hdw., hdw. on pr. fm., typed, and typed on pr. fm. 11 x 5 x 14. 641 f.b., 1831-1934, cir. clk.'s vlt., 4th fl.; 36 f.b., 1935--, cir. clk.'s record rm., 4th fl.; 5 f.b., 1935--, cir. clk.'s off., 4th fl.

239. CRIMINAL LAW PAPERS, 1831--. 293 f.b.

Original papers in criminal cases, including praecipe for execution, executions, witness affidavits, writs of habeas corpus, complaints before justices, warrants for arrest, bail records, indictments, depositions of evidence, attachments for contempt of court, grand jury subpoenas, instructions to jury, jury verdicts, motions for new trial, and orders of court. Also contains Not True Indictments, 1831-69, entry 241; Warden's Receipts Penitentiary, 1831-77, 1908--, entry 245; and Grand Jury Reports, 1831-79, entry 273. Arr. by case no. For index, see entry 237. Hdw., hdw. on pr. fm., typed, and typed on pr. fm. 11 x 5 x 14. Cir. clk.'s vlt., 4th fl.

240. CHANCERY LAW PAPERS, 1874--. 938 f.b. 1831-73 in Common Law
Papers, entry 238.

Original documents in chancery cases, including bills of complaint, summonses, executions, citations, petitions, affidavits of witnesses, subpoenas, defendants' answers, bills for divorce, final orders of reversal, instructions to jury, stipulations, attachments for contempt of court, additional counts, orders of court, and receipts for fees. Arr. by case no. For index, see entry 236. Hdw., hdw. on pr. fm., typed, and typed on pr. fm. 11 x 5 x 14. 602 f.b., 1874-1921, cir. clk.'s vlt., 4th fl.; 336 f.b., 1922--, cir. clk.'s record rm., 4th fl.

241. NOT TRUE INDICTMENTS, 1876--. 3 f.b. Missing: 1907-11.
1831-69 in Criminal Law Papers, entry 239; 1870-75 in Mis-
cellaneous Papers, entry 291.

Evidence heard by grand jury on which true bills were not found, showing names of defendant and witnesses, type of action, dates of return and filing, and signature of foreman of jury. Arr. by date of hearing. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 11 x 5 x 14. 1 f.b., 1876-1906, cir. clk.'s vlt., 4th fl.; 2 f.b., 1912--, cir. clk.'s record rm., 4th fl.

242. RECORD OF COURT CASES (Testimonies), 1880--. 96 bdl., 172 f.b. Copies of testimonies of witnesses, showing names of witness, plaintiff, defendant, and attorneys, type of action, date of testimony, objections and exceptions to admissibility of evidence, and court ruling. Arr. by date of testimony. No index. Hdw. and typed. Bdl. 7 x 12 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$; f.b. 10 x 4 x 13. 96 bdl., 160 f.b., 1880-1921, cir. clk.'s vlt., 4th fl.; 12 f.b., 1922--, cir. clk.'s private off., 4th fl.

243. LIENS, 1892--. 8 f.b. 1887-91 in Miscellaneous Papers, entry 291.

Mechanics' liens showing names of claimant and owner, legal description of property charged with lien, costs of material, date of labor, amount of lien, and date of filing. Arr. by date of filing. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 10 x 5 x 14. Cir. clk.'s record rm., 4th fl.

244. FILE CARD RECORD, 1916--. 16 f.b.

Card record of daily proceedings in common law and chancery cases, showing names of plaintiff and defendant, date of term, case number, type of ac-
tion, and proceedings of court. Arr. by date of term. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 11 x 5 x 14. Cir. clk.'s record rm., 4th fl.

245. WARDEN'S RECEIPTS PENITENTIARY, 1878-1907. 1 f.b. 1831-77,
1908-- in Criminal Law Papers, entry 239.

Receipts by wardens of penitentiaries for prisoners delivered to prison, showing names of prisoner and sheriff, dates of delivery and receipts, and signature of warden. Arr. by date of receipt. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 10 x 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 14. Cir. clk.'s vlt., 4th fl.

246. EXECUTIONS, 1830-87. 3 f.b.

Original executions showing names of defendant and sheriff, fee book and page of entry, amount and date of judgment, damages, and costs, sheriff's fees, and sheriff's return. Arr. by date of judgment. No index. Hdw. and hdw. on pr. fm. 10 x 5 x 14. Cir. clk.'s record rm., 4th fl.

For subsequent executions, see entries 238-240.

Court Records

247. CIRCUIT COURT RECORD, 1826--. 41 v. (A-Z, 1-15).

Record of proceedings in common law cases, showing term of court and date, names of plaintiff, defendant, attorneys, and officers of court, type of action, judgments, and orders of court. Also contains Chancery Record, 1826-60, entry 248; Criminal Record, 1826-75, entry 249; Confession Record, 1826-76, entry 250; and Complete Record, 1826-27, 1845-60, entry 254. Arr. by date of hearing. Indexed alph. by name of plaintiff; for sep. index, 1873--, see entry 236; for sep. index to complete record, 1826-27, 1845-60, see entry 237. 1826-1914, hdw.; 1915--, typed. 500 p. 18 x 13 x 3. Cir. clk.'s vlt., 4th fl.

248. CHANCERY RECORD, 1861--. 161 v. (1-161). 1826-60 in Circuit Court Record, entry 247.

Record of proceedings in chancery cases, showing date and term of court, names of complainant, defendant, jurors, officers of court, and attorneys, case number, type of action, and orders of court. Also contains Complete Record, entry 254. Arr. by date of hearing. Indexed alph. by name of estate; for sep. index, 1873--, see entry 236; for sep. index to complete record, see entry 237. 1861-1909, hdw.; 1910--, typed. 500 p. 18 x 13 x 3. Cir. clk.'s vlt., 4th fl.

249. CRIMINAL RECORD, 1876--. 25 v. (1-25). 1826-75 in Circuit Court Record, entry 247.

Record of proceedings in criminal cases, showing date and term of court, names of plaintiff, defendant, officers of court, and attorneys, docket number, type of case, and action taken. Arr. by date of hearing. Indexed alph. by name of defendant; for sep. index, see entry 236. 1876-1914, hdw.; 1915--, typed. 500 p. 18 x 13 x 3. Cir. clk.'s vlt., 4th fl.

250. CONFESSION RECORD, 1877--. 11 v. (1-11). 1826-76 in Circuit Court Record, entry 247.

Record of judgments by confession in vacation and court term, showing court term and date, names of plaintiff and defendant, type of case, and judgment of court. Arr. by date of judgment. Indexed alph. by name of defendant. Hdw. on pr. fm. 260 p. 18 x 13 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. V. 1-9, 1877-1930, cir. clk.'s vlt., 4th fl.; v. 10, 11, 1931--, cir. clk.'s off., 4th fl.

251. EXECUTION, 1915--. 6 v. Missing: 1919-22.

Record of orders for executions, showing names of plaintiff, defendant, and attorneys, case number, judgment docket and page number, and dates of judgment, order, and issuance of execution. Arr. by date of order. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 200 p. 17 x 12 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. Cir. clk.'s vlt., 4th fl.

252. ALIMONY RECORD, 1920--. 4 v. (1 not numbered, 2-4).

Register of alimony payments, showing names of payer and payee, date and number of case, date and amount of payment, and date of receipt. Arr. by date of receipt. Indexed alph. by name of payee. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 318 p. 14 x 9 x 2. Cir. clk.'s vlt., 4th fl.

253. DEMAND FOR JURY (Register), 1934--. 1 v.

Register of jury demands, showing case number, names of plaintiff, defendant, attorneys, and party demanding jury, and date of filing. Arr. by date of demand. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 60 p. 14 x 9 x 1. Cir. clk.'s vlt., 4th fl.

254. COMPLETE RECORD, 1828-44. 2 v. (A, B). 1826-27, 1845-60 in Circuit Court Record, entry 247; 1861-- in Chancery Record, entry 248.

Record of cases against administrators, executors, and guardians to satisfy judgments against estates, showing date and term of court, names of plaintiff, defendant, and estate, date and amount of judgment, and action taken. Arr. by case no. Indexed alph. by name of plaintiff; for sep. index, see entry 237. 590 p. 15 x 11 x 3. Cir. clk.'s vlt., 4th fl.

255. (CLERK'S RECORD OF DAYS OF COURT), 1909-17. 3 v.

Clerk's record of daily proceedings in court cases, showing names of officers present, number of cases, term date, proclamation of convening and adjourning court. Arr. by date of hearing. No index. Hdw. 175 p. 13 x 8 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. Cir. clk.'s vlt., 4th fl.

256. CRIMINAL INDICTMENT RECORD, 1934-36. 1 v.

Record of indictments returned by grand juries, showing names of defendant, witnesses, foreman of grand jury, and state's attorney, nature and date of offense, report of grand jury, and date of indictment. Arr. by date of indictment. Indexed alph. by name of defendant. Typcd. 490 p. 18 x 13 x 3. Cir. clk.'s vlt., 4th fl.

For original indictments, see entry 239.

Transcripts
(See also entry 161)

257. EXECUTION AND TRANSCRIPT OF JUDGMENT, 1857--. 12 f.b. (8 f.b., 1857--; 4 f.b., 1869-82). Title varies: Transcript Papers, 4 f.b., 1869-82.

Transcripts of judgments from justice of peace courts, showing names of plaintiff, defendant, court from which appealed, and officers of court, date and amount of judgment, date of appearance, and amount of costs and fees. Arr. by date of judgment. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm., typed, and typcd on pr. fm. 11 x 5 x 14. Cir. clk.'s record rm., 4th fl.

258. TRANSCRIPT RECORD, 1847--. 12 v. (1 not lettered, B-L). Transcripts of proceedings in justice of peace and county courts, showing date and term of court, names of plaintiff, defendant, and attorneys, court of appeal, kind of action, date of service of summons, court costs, and proceedings, and date of filing. Arr. by date of filing. Indexed alph. by name of plaintiff. Hdw. on pr. fm. 470 p. 18 x 13 x 2 1/2. Cir. clk.'s vlt., 4th fl.

Doc' ets

259. JUDGES' DOCKET COMMON LAW, 1845--. 47 v. (2 not lettered, C-X, 23 not lettered).

Judges' common law docket showing term date, case number, names of plaintiff, defendant, and attorneys, type of action, and abstract of proceedings. Also contains Judges' Docket Criminal, 1845-60, entry 260, and Judges' Docket Chancery, 1845-66, entry 261. Arr. by date of term. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 400 p. 17 x 12 x 3. Cir. clk.'s vlt., 4th fl.

260. JUDGES' DOCKET CRIMINAL, 1861--. 34 v. (1 not lettered, B-L, 22 not lettered). 1845-60 in Judges' Docket Common Law, entry 259.

Judges' docket of criminal cases, showing names of defendant and attorneys, case number, nature of charge, abstract of proceedings, and term date. Arr. by date of term. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 400 p. 18 x 13 x 3. Cir. clk.'s vlt., 4th fl.

261. JUDGES' DOCKET CHANCERY, 1867--. 48 v. (A-E, 1877-79; 1 not lettered, 1877-79; F-P, U, V, 29 not lettered, 1880--). 1845-66 in Judges' Docket Common Law, entry 259.

Judges' docket of chancery cases, showing names of plaintiff, defendant, and attorneys, term date, date and number of case, kind of action, abstract of proceedings, and date. Unlettered volume, 1877-79, is duplicate of volumes D, E, 1877-79. Arr. by date of case. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 400 p. 17 x 12 x 3. Cir. clk.'s vlt., 4th fl.

262. ENTRY BOOK CHANCERY (Docket), 1898--. 15 v.

Docket of chancery cases, showing case number, names of plaintiff, defendant, and attorneys, kind of action, and date of docket entry. Arr. by case no. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 200 p. 10 x 9 x 1 1/2. 12 v., 1898-1933, cir. clk.'s vlt., 4th fl.; 3 v., 1934--, cir. clk.'s off., 4th fl.

263. ENTRY BOOK LAW (Docket), 1904--. 12 v.

Docket of common law cases, showing case number, names of plaintiff, defendant, and attorneys, kind of action, and date of entry. Arr. by case no. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 200 p. 10 x 9 x 1 1/2. 10 v., 1904-32, cir. clk.'s vlt., 4th fl.; 2 v., 1933--, cir. clk.'s off., 4th fl.

264. JUDGMENT DOCKET, 1839-52, 1858--. 28 v. (1 not labeled, 1839-52; A-Z, A1, 1858--). 1853-57 in (Record of Deputy Officials' Appointments and Oaths) Judgment Docket, entry 81.

Docket of judgments entered, showing case number, names of plaintiff and defendant, amount of judgment, damages, and costs, dates of judgment, execution, and return, book and page of entry, and remarks. Also contains Execution Docket, 1902--, entry 265. Arr. by date of judgment. Indexed alph. by name of plaintiff or defendant. 1839-52, hdw.; 1858--, hdw. under pr. hdgs. 300 p. 18 x 13 x 3. Cir. clk.'s vlt., 4th fl.

265. EXECUTION DOCKET, 1827-1901. 8 v. (A-H). 1902-- in Judgment Docket, entry 264.

Docket of executions issued, showing case number, date of issuance of execution, names of plaintiff, defendant, attorneys, and sheriff, date and amount of judgment, damages, costs, and sheriff's return. Arr. by date of execution. Indexed alph. by names of plaintiff and defendant. 1827-50, hdw.; 1851--, hdw. under pr. hdgs. 250 p. 18 x 13 x 2. Cir. clk.'s vlt., 4th fl.

266. LIEN AND SATISFACTION DOCKET, 1887--. 3 v. (1-3).

Docket of liens, showing names of claimant, legal description of property charged with lien, date, amount, and number of lien, and notation and date of satisfaction. Arr. by lien no. Indexed alph. by name of defendant. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 290 p. 18 x 13 x 2. Cir. clk.'s vlt., 4th fl.

Fee Books

267. FEE BOOK COMMON LAW, 1827--. 42 v. (1 not labeled, B, 4 not labeled, F-R, U, W, Y, 1, 4-6, 9, 10, 13, 16, 18, 21, 25, 27, 31, 33, 37, 41, 44, 47, 49, 51). Title varies: Fee Book, 1 v. not labeled, v. B, 4 not labeled, F-Q, 1827-82.

Register of fees in common law cases, showing number of case, term date, names of plaintiff and defendant, type of action, itemized statement of fees, court costs, total, and date of receipt. Also contains Fee Book Criminal, 1827-81, entry 268, and Fee Book Chancery, 1827-81, entry 269. 1827-97, arr. by date of case; 1898--, arr. by case no. Indexed alph. by name of plaintiff. 1827-55, hdw.; 1856--, hdw. under pr. hdgs. 600 p., 18 x 6 x 3 - 18 x 13 x 3. 1 v. not labeled, v. B, 4 not labeled, F-R, U, W, Y, 1, 4-6, 9, 10, 13, 16, 18, 21, 25, 27, 31, 33, 37, 41, 44, 1827-1931, cir. clk.'s vlt., 4th fl.; v. 47, 49, 51, 1932--, cir. clk.'s off., 4th fl.

268. FEE BOOK CRIMINAL, 1882--. 17 v. (T, X, 2, 7, 12, 15, 20, 23, 26, 29, 32, 35, 38-40, 43, 46). 1827-81 in Fee Book Common Law, entry 267.

Register of fees received in criminal cases, showing case number, name of defendant, term date, kind of action, list of fees and court costs, total, and date of receipt. Arr. by case no. Indexed alph. by name of defendant. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 600 p. 18 x 13 x 3. 16 v., 1882-1935, cir. clk.'s vlt., 4th fl.; v. 46, 1936--, cir. clk.'s off., 4th fl.

269. FEE BOOK CHANCERY, 1882--. 20 v. (S, V, Z, 3, 8, 11, 14, 17, 19, 22, 24, 28, 30, 34, 36, 42, 45, 48, 50, 52). 1827-81 in Fee Book Common Law, entry 267.

Register of fees received in chancery cases, showing names of plaintiff and defendant, term date, case number, type of action, itemized list of fees and court costs, and date and amount of receipts. Arr. by case no. Indexed alph. by name of plaintiff. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 600 p. 18 x 13 x 3. 17 v., 1882-1931, cir. clk.'s vlt., 4th fl.; v. 48, 50, 52, 1932--, cir. clk.'s off., 4th fl.

Reports to Court

270. MASTER'S REPORTS, 1880-93, 1898--. 5 f.b. 1894-97 in Miscellaneous Papers, entry 291.

Master-in-chancery reports showing names of master, plaintiff, and defendant, amount of receipts and disbursements, recapitulation, and date of report. Arr. by date of report. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 11 x 5 x 14. Cir. clk.'s record rm., 4th fl.

271. STATE'S ATTORNEY'S REPORT, 1886--. 2 f.b.

Original reports of state's attorneys, showing number of indictments and convictions, amount of fees, fines, and forfeitures collected, date of receipt by county treasurer, date and term of court, names of state's attorney and defendant, and recommendations for care of county jail and prisoners. Arr. by date of report. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 11 x 5 x 14. Cir. clk.'s record rm., 4th fl.

272. STATE'S ATTORNEY'S REPORT RECORD, 1877--. 3 v. (1 not numbered, 2, 3).

Report record of convictions and fines, fees, and forfeitures collected by state's attorney, showing names of defendant and attorneys, type of action, amount of collections, date and case number, and court proceedings. Arr. by date of case. 1877-1911, indexed alph. by name of state's attorney; 1912--, no index. Hdw. 250 p. 18 x 13 x 2. Cir. clk.'s vlt., 4th fl.

273. GRAND JURY REPORTS, 1927--. 1 f.b. 1831-79 in Criminal Law Papers, entry 239; 1880-1926 in Miscellaneous Papers, entry 291.

Reports of grand juries, showing names of judge, foreman, and members of jury, date and term of court, number of true and nontrue bills returned, and number of days in session; also reports of sanitary condition of county jail and health of prisoners. Arr. by date of report. No index. Hdw. and typed. 11 x 5 x 14. Cir. clk.'s record rm., 4th fl.

Circuit Court - Jury
Records; Bonds

Jury Records
(See also entries 24, 88[x], 132, 137, 168, 248)

274. JURY VENIRES, 1870--. 7 f.b.
Venires of jurors, showing names of persons ordered to appear for jury service, date and time of appearance, and seal of circuit clerk. Arr. by date of drawing. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 11 x 5 x 4. Cir. clk.'s record rm., 4th fl.

275. RECORD OF JURORS AND WITNESSES (Register), 1917--. 8 v.
Register of jurors and witnesses having served in circuit court, showing name and address of juror or witness, and date of service. Arr. by date of service. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 250 p. 18 x 13 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. Cir. clk.'s vlt., 4th fl.

Bonds
(See also entries 77-81, 120, 122)

276. OFFICIAL BONDS, 1828--. 2 f.b. (1 f.b. 1828-94; 1 f.b. 1932--).
Circuit clerk's files of miscellaneous official bonds, including those of master in chancery, 1851-94, 1932--, probation officer, 1932--, sheriff 1832-68, county clerk, 1877-82, 1932--, coroner, 1828-73; also contains Deputy Sheriff's Bonds, 1829-64, entry 296. No obvious arr. No index. 1828-94, hdw. and hdw. on pr. fm.; 1932--, typed and typed on pr. fm. 1 f.b., 1828-94, cir. clk.'s vlt., 4th fl.; 1 f.b., 1932--, cir. clk.'s off., 4th fl.

277. BONDS, 1882--. 19 f.b.
Miscellaneous bonds, including appeal, writs, injunction, recognizance, replevin, receivers' and trustees' bonds, and bonds for court costs. Arr. by date of filing. No index. Hdw. and typed on pr. fm. 11 x 5 x 14. 14 f.b., 1882-1934, cir. clk.'s record rm., 4th fl.; 5 f.b., 1935--, cir. clk.'s off., 4th fl.

For additional appeal bonds, see entries 132, 291[i].

278. RECOGNIZANCE RECORD, 1870-1921. 5 v. (A-E).
Copies of recognizance bonds, showing names of defendant and sureties, amount and condition of bond, dates of bond and filing, and signature of sheriff. Arr. by date of bond. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 315 p. 18 x 13 x 2. Cir. clk.'s vlt., 4th fl.

279. BOND AND REPLEVIN FINE AND COSTS, 1897-1926. 2 v. (1, 2).
Copies of replevin bonds given to sheriff or constable, showing names of principal and sureties, value of property, amount, conditions, and obligations of bond, signatures of principal and surety, and dates of bond and entry. Arr. by date of entry. Indexed alph. by name of defendant. Hdw. on pr. fm. 290 p. 18 x 13 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. Cir. clk.'s vlt., 4th fl.

Parole

280. APPLICATION FOR DISCHARGE UNDER PAROLE, 1896-99. 1 v.

Record of application for discharge under parole law, showing name of applicant, place of confinement, date and type of crime, action of parole board, and dates of application and parole. Arr. by date of application. Indexed alph. by name of applicant. Hdw. on pr. fm. 440 p. 18 x 13 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Cir. clk.'s vlt., 4th fl.

Naturalization

(See also entries 179-183)

281. NATURALIZATION PAPERS, 1836-1927. 2 f.b. Missing: 1903-23.

1928-30 in Naturalization Service Petition and Record, entry 283; 1931-- in United States District Court, Danville, Illinois.

Declarations of intention to become citizen of United States, showing name, age, nativity, and residence of alien, date of arrival, name of vessel, renunciation of allegiance to foreign power, signatures of witnesses and alien, and dates of declaration and filing. No obvious arr. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 11 x 5 x 14. Cir. clk.'s record rm., 4th fl.

282. NATURALIZATION SERVICE RECORD OF DECLARATION OF INTENTION, 1860-1930. 3 v. (A, 1, 2). Missing: 1907-20. Title varies: Naturalization Record Intention, A, 1860-1906. 1931-- in United States District Court, Danville, Illinois.

Record of declarations of intention to become citizens, showing name, age, nativity, occupation, and residence of alien, date and place of arrival in United States, and dates of declaration and filing. Arr. by date of filing. Indexed alph. by name of applicant. Hdw. on pr. fm. 300 - 500 p. 12 x 8 x $\frac{1}{2}$ - 18 x 13 x 3. Cir. clk.'s vlt., 4th fl.

283. NATURALIZATION SERVICE PETITION AND RECORD, 1860-1930. 4 v.

(B, B, 1, 2). Missing: 1903-20. Title varies: Naturalization Record Final, B, B, 1860-1902. 1931-- in United States District Court, Danville, Illinois.

Record of petition for and final certificate of naturalization, showing names of alien, wife, children, witnesses, clerk, and judge, addresses of alien and witnesses, nativity, place and date of immigration, renunciation of allegiance to foreign power, oath of allegiance to United States, and date of filing. Also contains Naturalization Papers, 1928-30, entry 281; Naturalization Record Minor and Soldiers, 1860-65, 1921-30, entry 284. Arr. by date of filing. Indexed alph. by name of applicant. Hdw. on pr. fm. 550 p. 18 x 13 x 3. Cir. clk.'s vlt., 4th fl.

Circuit Court - Office
Transactions

284. NATURALIZATION RECORD MINOR AND SOLDIERS, 1866-1902. 1 v.
Missing: 1903-20. 1860-65, 1921-30 in Naturalization Service
Petition and Record, entry 283.

Record of minors' and discharged soldiers' petitions, final oaths, and certificates of naturalization, showing name, age, occupation, and nativity of alien, length of residence in the United States, and dates of petition, oath, and certificate. Arr. by date of instrument. Indexed alph. by name of applicant. Hdw. on pr. fm. 416 p. 18 x 13 x 2. Cir. clk.'s vlt., 4th fl.

285. PETITION FINAL OATH (and) CERTIFICATE RECORD (Discharged Soldiers).
1876-84. 1 v.

Record of soldiers' petitions, oaths, and final certificates of naturalization, showing name, age, and nativity of alien, names of witnesses, length of residence in the United States, dates of petition, oath, and final certificate, and service record. Arr. by date of instrument. Indexed alph. by name of applicant. Hdw. on pr. fm. 500 p. 18 x 13 x 3. Cir. clk.'s vlt., 4th fl.

Office Transactions

Court Business

286. FOREIGN WITNESS (Affidavits). 1925--. 1 f.b.
Affidavits of foreign witnesses in circuit court cases, showing name and address of witness, names of defendant and clerk, days of service, amount of claim, and date and amount of payment. Arr. chron. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 11 x 5 x 14. Cir. clk.'s record rm., 4th fl.

For prior foreign witness affidavits, see entries 238-240.

287. PUBLICATION RECORD, 1922--. 2 v.
Record of publication notices, showing case number, names of plaintiff, defendant, attorneys, and newspapers, type of action, and dates of filing notice and publication. Arr. by date of filing. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 60 p. 14 x 9 x 1/2. Cir. clk.'s vlt., 4th fl.

Receipts and Expenditures

288. ASSIGNMENTS (of Witness Fees), 1901--. 2 f.b. Last entry 1931.
Missing: 1912-28.
Authorization for attorney in fact to collect mileage and witness fees, showing names of attorney, plaintiff, and defendant, case number, amount due, and signature of assignee. No obvious arr. No index. Hdw. and typed. 11 x 5 x 14. Cir. clk.'s record rm., 4th fl.

289. CASH BOOK, 1924--. 4 v.
Circuit clerk's cash book of receipts and disbursements, showing date, amount, and purpose of receipts and expenditures, and names of payer and payee. Arr. chron. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 300 p. 13 x 18 x 2. Cir. clk.'s record rm., 4th fl.

Miscellaneous Records

290. VERMILION COUNTY SIGNERS OF LOYALTY, 1918. 1 v.

List of persons pledging loyalty to the United States, showing names of persons signing and refusing, reasons for refusal, and totals. No obvious arr. No index. Typed. 500 p. 9 x 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 3 $\frac{1}{2}$. Cir. clk.'s vlt., 4th fl.

291. MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS, 1833-1927. 4 f.b.

Miscellaneous documents from various offices filed with or kept by the circuit clerk, including:

- i. Appeal bonds, 1905, 1907, showing names of principal and sureties, date, amount, and obligations of bond, and date of filing.
- ii. Attachments for contempt of court, 1900, showing name of defendant, nature of contempt, date, sheriff's return, and amount of fees charged.
- iii. Civil law papers, 1874, 1898, including declarations, summonses, executions, citations, witness affidavits, subpoenas, stipulations, and court orders.
- iv. Drainage right of way releases and settlements, 1880-84, showing names of releasor and releasee, legal description of property, date and consideration of release, and date of filing.
- v. Motions for new trial, 1906, showing date and reason for motion, and name of defendant.
- vi. Order fixing date of naturalization hearing, 1925, showing names of judge and clerk, and dates of order and hearing.
- vii. Petitions for appointment of deputy sheriffs, 1927, showing name of sheriff, dates of petition and filing, and number of deputies needed.
- viii. Sheriff's certificates of levy, 1889, showing names of sheriff, plaintiff, and defendant, description of property, amount of costs, fees, judgment, and penalties, and date of levy.
- ix. Subpoenas to appear before grand jury, 1874, showing name and address of person, date, time, and place of appearance.
- x. Tax purchase notices, 1880-84, showing names of original owner, purchaser, and county clerk, legal description of property, and date of notice and last day of redemption period.
- xi. True bills, 1869-1906, showing name of defendant, action, date of indictment, and signature of foreman of grand jury.

Also contains Not True Indictments, 1870-75, entry 241; Liens, 1887-91, entry 243; Master's Reports, 1894-97, entry 270; and Grand Jury Reports, 1880-1926, entry 273. No obvious arr. No index. Hdw., typed, and hdw. on pr. fm. 11 x 5 x 14. Cir. clk.'s record rm., 4th fl.

VII. SHERIFF

The sheriff, by constitutional provision, has been an elected officer in Vermilion County from the organization of the county, in 1826, to the present.¹ The term of his office, originally set at two years,² is now four years.³ In 1880 it was provided, by constitutional amendment, that no person elected to the office of sheriff should be eligible for reelection to that office until four years after the expiration of his term of office.⁴ His bond in this county is required in the sum of \$10,000 and must be approved by the county judge.⁵ Memoranda of this bond are entered at large upon the records of the county court, and the bond is filed in the office of the county clerk.⁶ One or more deputies are appointed by the sheriff in accordance with the number allowed by rule of the circuit court. Compensation of the deputies is determined by the county board.⁷ The sheriff is warden of the county jail and has custody and regulation of the same and of all prisoners.⁸ To assist him in this administration, he appoints a superintendent of the county jail for whose conduct he is responsible, and whom he may remove at pleasure.⁹

Essentially without change for over one hundred years, the principal duties of the sheriff are the following:

1. To act as conservator of the peace, with power to arrest offenders on view.¹⁰

1. Constitution of 1818, Art. III, sec. 11; Constitution of 1848, Art. VII, sec. 7; Constitution of 1870, Art. X, sec. 8; second amendment November 22, 1880, to the Constitution of 1870, Art. X, sec. 8; also L.1819, p. 110; R.S.1874, p. 989.
2. Constitution of 1818, Art. III, sec. 11; Constitution of 1848, Art. VII, sec. 7.
3. Constitution of 1870, Art. X, sec. 8.
4. *Ibid.*, as amended November, 1880.
5. R.S.1874, p. 990. Cf. R.L.1827, p. 371. Prior to the organization of the county court, the sheriff's bond and securities were approved by the circuit court.
6. R.S.1845, p. 514; R.S.1874, p. 989.
7. R.L.1827, p. 373; R.S.1845, p. 515; L.1869, p. 399; Constitution of 1870, Art. X, sec. 9.
8. L.1819, p. 111,112,160-62, 314-17,332,333; L.1821, p. 37,63,64; R.L.1827, p. 247-50; L.1831, p. 103,104,106; R.L.1833, p. 574,575; L.1845, p. 10,19; R.S.1845, p. 133,134,515-17; R.S.1874, p. 616,989-91; L.1901, p. 137,138; L.1923, p. 423. The citations also include reference to duties not included in the general outline noted above.
9. L.1923, p. 423.
10. R.L.1827, p. 372; R.S.1845, p. 515; R.S.1874, p. 990.

Sheriff

2. To attend, in person or by deputy, all courts of record (city, county, probate, circuit, and appellate courts) in his county, and to obey the orders and directions of the courts.¹
3. To serve, execute, and return all writs, warrants, process, orders, and decrees legally directed to him.²
4. To sell real or personal property by virtue of execution or other process.³
5. To send fingerprints of criminals to the State Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation.⁴

In the course of the sheriff's many detailed duties included in these broad provisions, the following records may be kept but do not appear in Vermilion County:

1. Receipts of deliveries of prisoners in changes of venue.⁵
2. Copies of reports to the county court and circuit court.⁶
3. Reports of pawnbrokers on loans and articles pawned.⁷

The following records may be kept and do appear:

1. Register of prisoners.⁸
2. "Book of Accounts," including records of fees and disbursements.⁹
3. Data of identification of criminals and stolen property.¹⁰
4. Docket of execution.
5. Process docket.

1. R.L.1827, p. 372; R.S.1845, p. 515; R.S.1874, p. 990.
2. Ibid.
3. R.L.1827, p. 334; L.1838-39, p. 14-18,20; R.S.1845, p. 302,306,307; L.1871-72, p. 505; R.S.1874, p. 622,623,627-29.
4. L.1931, p. 465.
5. R.S.1874, p. 1096.
6. Ibid., p. 617; L.1923, p. 424; L.1933, p. 678.
7. L.1909, p. 301.
8. R.S.1874, p. 617; L.1923, p. 424.
9. L.1871-72, p. 450,451; L.1873-74, p. 104,105.
10. L.1931, p. 465.

Sheriff - Process;
Bonds

Process

292. COMMON LAW RECORD (Process Docket), 1878--. 16 v. (E-I, I-P, 1 not labeled, 20, 1 not labeled). Missing: 1915-22. Title varies: Sheriff's Process Docket, v. E-I, I-P, 1878-1911; Sheriff's Register of Service, 1 v. not labeled, 1912-14, v. 20, 1923-27. Docket of process papers served by sheriff in common law cases, showing case number, names of plaintiff and defendant, type of writ, and dates of receipt and service; 1878-1911, also shows amount of fee earnings and receipts, kind of action, and names of attorneys. Also contains Chancery Record (Process Docket), 1878-1927, entry 293; Criminal Record (Process Docket), 1878-1925, entry 294; and Execution Docket, 1909--, entry 295. Arr. by date of process. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 285 - 500 p. 16 x 12 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 18 x 4 x 3. V. E-I, I-P, 1 not labeled, 20, 1878-1914, 1924-27, common vlt., 5th fl.; 1 v. not labeled, 1928--, sh.'s private off., 1st fl.

293. CHANCERY RECORD (Process Docket), 1928--. 1 v. 1878-1927 in Common Law Record (Process Docket), entry 292. Docket of process papers served by sheriff in chancery cases, showing case number, date of receipt, kind of writ, names of plaintiff and defendant, and date of service. Arr. by date of service. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 500 p. 18 x 14 x 3. Sh.'s off., 1st fl., co. jail.

294. CRIMINAL RECORD (Process Docket), 1926--. 2 v. 1878-1925 in Common Law Record (Process Docket), entry 292. Docket of process papers served by sheriff in criminal cases, showing case number, date of receipt, type of writ, name of defendant, and date of service. Arr. by date of service. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 500 p. 14 x 18 x 3 1 v., 1926-28, common vlt., 5th fl.; 1 v., 1929--, sh.'s off., 1st fl., co. jail.

295. EXECUTION DOCKET, 1874-1908. 8 v. (C-J). 1909-- in Common Law Record (Process Docket), entry 292. Sheriff's docket of executions served, showing names of plaintiff and defendant, case number, amount of judgment and fees, and dates of execution, service, and return. Arr. by date of execution. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 100 p. 14 x 17 x 2. Common vlt., 5th fl.

Bonds

296. DEPUTY SHERIFF'S BONDS, 1934--. 1 f.b. Missing: 1865-1933. 1829-64 in Official Bonds, entry 276. Bonds of deputy sheriffs, showing name of principal, date, amount, and obligations of bond, signatures of sureties, and date of filing. Arr. by date of bond. No index. Hdw. 10 x 5 x 14. Sh.'s private off., 1st fl.

Sheriff - Jail Records; Fees,
Receipts and Expenditures

Jail Records

297. JAIL RECORD, 1935--. 2 f.b.

Daily card record of prisoners, showing number, name, address, occupation, and physical description of prisoner, names and address of parents, type of charge, length of sentence, reference to fingerprint record, and date of release. Arr. alph. by name of prisoner. No index. Typed on pr. fm. 4 x 6 x 18. Sh.'s off., 1st fl., co. jail.

298. JAIL REGISTER, 1906--. 7 v.

Register of persons committed to jail, showing name, sex, age, color, occupation, birthplace, residence, and physical condition of prisoner, date and by whom committed, type of offense, date and length of sentence, and date and reason for discharge. Arr. by date of sentence. Indexed alph. by name of prisoner. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 500 p. 14 x 18 x 3. Sh.'s off., 1st fl., co. jail.

299. FINGERPRINT RECORD, 1937--. 26 f.b.

Card record of prisoners' fingerprints, showing final disposition of case, date and place of birth, residence, nationality, physical description, occupation, criminal history, copy of fingerprints, and number of prisoner. Arr. alph. by name of prisoner. For index to fingerprint record by name, see entry 300; for index to fingerprint record by number, see entry 301. Typed on pr. fm. 3 x 4 x 12. Sh.'s off., 1st fl., co. jail.

300. INDEX TO FINGERPRINT RECORD (By Name), 1937--. 1 v.

Index to Fingerprint Record, entry 299, showing name and criminal record of prisoner, and date of prints. Arr. alph. by name of prisoner. Typed on pr. fm. 100 p. 12 x 8 x 1. Sh.'s off., 1st fl., co. jail.

301. INDEX TO FINGERPRINT RECORD (By Number), 1937--. 1 v.

Index to Fingerprint Record, entry 299, showing name, number, and criminal record of prisoner, and date of prints. Arr. by no. of prisoner. Typed on pr. fm. 100 p. 12 x 8 x 1. Sh.'s off., 1st fl., co. jail.

Fees, Receipts and Expenditures

302. SHERIFF'S PAYROLL VOUCHERS, 1930--. 3 f.b.

Duplicate vouchers issued as payment of salaries of deputies in sheriff's office, showing date of voucher, name of payee, and amount of salary. Arr. by date of voucher. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 4 x 10 x 13 - 14 x 14 x 20. 1 f.b., 1930-34, common vlt., 5th fl.; 2 f.b., 1935--, sh.'s off., 1st fl., co. jail.

303. CASH BOOK, 1916--. 3 v.

Cash book of receipts and expenditures, showing dates, purposes, and amounts of receipts and expenditures, and name of payer or payee. Also contains Sheriff's Receipts (Register), 1922--, entry 304. Arr. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 500 p. 17 x 15 x 2. 2 v., 1916-22, common vlt., 5th fl.; 1 v., 1923--, sh.'s private off., 1st fl.

304. SHERIFF'S RECEIPTS (Register), 1874-1921. 15 v. (2-5, 7, 8, 10-17, 19). Missing: 1883-84, 1891, 1917-19. 1922-- in Cash Book, entry 303.

Register of receipts, showing nature of service, amount of fees, date, and name of payer. Arr. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 500 p. 17 x 15 x 2. Common vlt., 5th fl.

VIII. CORONER

The coroner's office in Vermilion County has continued in existence from the organization of the county, 1826, to the present.¹ The coroner is elected by the county electorate for a four-year term.² After certification of his election by the county clerk, filing of his bond, and taking oath of office, he receives his commission from the Governor.³ The coroner's bond in this county is required in the sum of \$5,000 and must be approved by the county judge.⁴ The inquest duties of this official have changed little over a period of more than a century. The coroner acts as a conservator of the peace with powers equal to those of sheriff in this respect and serves as a ministerial officer of the courts in the absence or disqualification of the sheriff; he also performs all the other duties of the latter when the office is vacant.⁵

The most important function of the coroner is to hold inquest over the bodies of persons supposed to have come to their death by violence, casualty, or other undue means. When notification of such death is received, the coroner proceeds to the body, takes charge of it, and summons a jury composed of six men from the vicinity in which the body was found. The jury is instructed to assemble at a stated time and place, to view the body and to inquire into the cause and manner of the death. If the inquest is continued and a vacancy should occur on the jury, the coroner is allowed to fill such vacancy.⁶

1. Constitution of 1818, Art. III, sec. 11; L.1849, Second Sess., p. 7; Constitution of 1870, Art. X, sec. 8.
2. The office is constitutional and elective (Constitution of 1818, Art. III, sec. 11; Constitution of 1870, Art. X, sec. 8). The term, formerly two years, is now four years (second amendment, November 22, 1880, to Constitution of 1870, Art. X, sec. 8).
3. R.S.1845, p. 514; R.S.1874, p. 281.
4. R.S.1874, p. 281.
5. L.1819, p. 111,160; L.1821, p. 20-23; L.1825, p. 63,64; R.L.1827, p. 246-50,372,375; R.S.1845, p. 515,517; R.S.1874, p. 281,282.
6. L.1821, p. 22-24; R.S.1845, p. 517,518; R.S.1874, p. 282-84; L.1879, p. 82; L.1907, p. 213; L.1912, p. 403; L.1931, p. 388.

To the custody of the clerk of the circuit court are returned the verdict of the jury, and such recognizances as may be given the coroner by witnesses whose testimony implicates any person as the unlawful slayer of the deceased.¹ In his own office, the coroner files and preserves the record of such testimony.² The coroner also keeps one record which he originates, the "inquest record." This record recapitulates all the data involved in the entire inquest procedure and includes an inventory and accounting of the personal property and money of the deceased.³

Deputy coroners appointed by this official assist him in the performance of the duties of his office. The number of deputies is set by rule of the circuit court, and their compensation is determined by the county board of supervisors. The bond or securities of these assistants are taken by the coroner, and the oath to which each subscribes is filed in the county clerk's office.⁴

305. CORONER'S RECORDS, 1869--. 68 f.b. Missing: 1898-1907. Files of inquest papers, showing name, sex, age, and residence of deceased, date, place, and cause of death, date of inquest, names of jurors and witnesses, list and disposition of personal effects, and verdict of jury. Arr. by date of inquest. No index. Hdw., hdw. on pr. fm., typed, and typed on pr. fm. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 14. 2 f.b., 1869-97, cir. clk.'s record rm., 4th fl.; 35 f.b., 1908-31, cor.'s strm., 1st fl.; 31 f.b., 1932--, cor.'s off., 1st fl.

306. CORONER'S RECORD, 1887--. 8 v. (7 v. 1887--; 1 v. 1903-4). Record of coroner's inquests, showing name, sex, age, and residence of deceased, names of jurors, witnesses, and coroner, place, date, and cause of death, date of inquest, and verdict of jury. Overlap in dates covers a few miscellaneous segregated cases. Arr. by date of inquest. Indexed alph. by name of deceased. Also contains Coroner's Ledger, 1887-1907, 1921--, entry 308. 1887-1907, hdw. on pr. fm.; 1908--, typed and hdw. on pr. fm. 300 p. 18 x 13 x 3. 3 v., 1887-1907, common vlt., 5th fl.; 5 v., 1903-4, 1908--, cor.'s strm., 1st fl.

307. CORONER'S REPORT (Register of Fees), 1908--. 1 v. Register of fees earned by coroner, showing date of inquest, name of deceased, and amount of earnings and receipts. Arr. by date of inquest. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 500 p. 16 x 11 x 2. Cor's strm., 1st fl.

1. L.1821, p. 24,25; R.S.1845, p. 518; R.S.1874, p. 284.

2. L.1869, p. 104; R.S.1874, p. 283; L.1907, p. 213; L.1919, p. 293.

3. L.1821, p. 25,26; R.S.1874, p. 283.

4. Constitution of 1870, Art. X, sec. 9; L.1881, p. 63.

308. CORONER'S LEDGER, 1908-20. 1 v. 1887-1907, 1921-- in Coroner's Record, entry 306.

List of personal effects found on deceased persons and returned to relatives, showing name of deceased, amount of cash and description of articles found, to whom returned, and date. Arr. by date of return. Indexed alph. by name of deceased. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 100 p. 10 x 9 x 1. Common vlt., 5th fl.

309. STUBS OF CORONER'S WARRANTS, 1929--. 10 v.

Stubs of warrants issued by coroner for jurors' services, showing number, amount, and date of warrant, and names of payee and deceased. Arr. by warrant no. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 200 p. 15 x 12 x 1. Cor.'s off., 1st fl.

310. CORONER'S ORDERS AND WARRANTS ISSUED, 1916-24. 1 bdl.

Duplicate coroner's orders and warrants issued for jurors' services, showing date and name of payee, number of days of service, and amount of warrant or order. Arr. by date of order or warrant. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 14 x 12 x 2. Common vlt., 5th fl.

IX. STATE'S ATTORNEY

The functions of the office of state's attorney in Vermilion County were performed by a circuit attorney from the organization of the county to 1827 when he was replaced by an officer "styled and called state's attorney."¹ In Vermilion County, as in each of the counties of the judicial district, this officer commenced and prosecuted in courts of record all actions in which the people of the state or county were concerned.² The state's attorney was appointed by the Governor until 1835, when he became an appointee of the General Assembly.³ This latter provision remained effective until 1848, when the state's attorney became an elective officer of the circuit district electorate.⁴ At this time his services also were expanded to include the newly created county court. Finally, the present constitution made the office elective in and for each county.⁵ Bond in the sum of \$5,000 has been required since 1872.⁶

1. L.1819, p. 204; L.1825, p. 178,179; R.L.1827, p. 79,80. Vermilion County was created in 1826 (L.1826, p. 50).
2. L.1835, p. 44; R.S.1845, p. 76; R.S.1874, p. 173,174.
3. L.1835, p. 44.
4. Constitution of 1848, Art. V, sec. 21.
5. R.L.1833, p. 98; L.1835, p. 44; Constitution of 1848, Art. V, sec. 21, 28; Constitution of 1870, Art. VI, sec. 22; R.S.1874, p. 172.
6. L.1871-72, p. 189.

From the creation of this office in the state until the present, the state's attorney has continued to receive his commission from the Governor for the tenure of his office.¹ In 1827, his appointment was set at a four-year term;² in 1835, his term was set at two years.³ Then, in 1849, the state's attorney's office became elective by the district electorate for a four-year term, the first term, however, being only for three years and ending in 1852.⁴ In Vermilion County the state's attorney receives an annual salary of \$6,500, with an additional \$400 paid by the state. Statutory fee rates are allowed him for convictions on specified offenses and crimes before justices of the peace, police magistrates, county and circuit courts. Also, rates are established for preliminary examinations of defendants, for attendance at trials, and for appeals. These several fees and rates make up a county fund from which is paid his salary.⁵

The duties of the state's attorney are the following:

1. To commence and prosecute all actions, suits, indictments, and prosecutions, civil or criminal, in any court of record in his county in which the people of the state or county may be concerned.
2. To prosecute all forfeited bonds and recognizances and all actions and proceedings for the recovery of debts, revenues, moneys, fines, penalties, and forfeitures accruing to the state or his county, or to any school district in his county; also, to prosecute all suits in his county against railroads or transportation companies, which may be prosecuted in the name of the people of the State of Illinois.
3. To commence and prosecute all actions and proceedings brought up by any county officer in his official capacity.
4. To defend all actions and proceedings brought against his county or against any county or state officer, in his official capacity, in his county.
5. To attend the examination of all persons brought before any judge on habeas corpus when the prosecution is in his county.
6. To attend before justices of the peace and prosecute charges of felony or misdemeanor, for which the offender is required to be recognized to appear before a court of record, when it is within his power to do so.

1. R.L.1833, p. 98; L.1835, p. 44; Constitution of 1848, Art. V, sec. 28; Constitution of 1870, Art. VI, sec. 22; R.S.1874, p. 172.
2. R.L.1827, p. 79,80.
3. L.1835, p. 44.
4. Constitution of 1848, Art. V, sec. 21; Constitution of 1870, Art. VI, sec. 22.
5. L.1871-72, p. 422; L.1873-74, p. 104,105; L.1909, p. 231-33; L.1929, p. 474-76; L.1937, p. 607.

Supervisor of Assessments

7. To give his opinion, without fee or reward, to any county officer or justice of the peace in his county upon any question of law relating to any criminal or other matter in which the people of the state or county may be concerned.
8. To assist the Attorney General whenever it may be necessary, and in cases of appeal or writ of error from his county to the Supreme Court, to which it is the duty of the Attorney General to attend, he shall, a reasonable time before the trial of such appeal or writ of error, furnish the Attorney General with a brief, showing the nature of the case and the questions involved.
9. To pay all moneys received by him in trust, without delay, to the officer who by law is entitled to their custody.
10. To perform such other and further duties as may from time to time be enjoined upon him by law.
11. To appear in all proceedings by collectors of taxes against delinquent taxpayers for judgment to sell real estate, and to see that all the necessary preliminary steps have been legally taken to make the judgment legal and binding.¹
12. To enforce the collection of all fines, forfeitures, and penalties imposed or incurred in the courts of record in his county; and to report to the circuit court on the collection of these moneys.²

The state's attorney does not keep any records in his office; for state's attorney's reports to the circuit court, see entries 271, 272.

X. SUPERVISOR OF ASSESSMENTS

The county supervisor of assessments, with the aid of the township assessors in Vermilion County, is responsible for the assessment of property upon which the township, district, county, state, and other taxes are levied. Principally, these officers annually revise the assessment of property, correct the same upon complaint, and quadrennially assess real and personal property.³ Many statutory provisions have regulated this function in Vermilion County. Early laws fixed the value of the

1. R.S.1845, p. 76; R.S.1874, p. 172-74.

2. L.1909, p. 406; L.1911-12, p. 88; L.1929, p. 475.

3. L.1871-72, p. 20-22; L.1879, p. 243; L.1881, p. 134; L.1891, p. 37; L.1898, p. 37,40,44; L.1903, p. 295,296; L.1923, p. 491,492,504,505; L.1927, p. 713,714; L.1928, Sp. Sess., p. 106; L.1931-32, First Sp. Sess., p. 66.

several categories of real and personal property, leaving to the assessing officer only limited discretion.¹

From 1826 to 1827 when the sheriff acted as treasurer,² property assessments in Vermilion County were made by a county assessor, an appointee of the county commissioners' court.³ In 1827 the General Assembly re-established the office of county treasurer, and the assessment function was resumed by that officer.⁴ The treasurer continued to act in this capacity until 1839 when the legislature provided for the appointment by the county commissioners' court of district assessors.⁵ The duty of property assessment reverted to the county treasurer again in 1844⁶ and continued to be vested in that office until 1851 when township organization was instituted in this county,⁷ and assessments were made by township assessors, elected one in each township annually.⁸

Between 1849 and 1898, the assessing officers in Vermilion County received their assessment lists from, and reported assessments to, the county clerk.⁹ In the latter year, the legislature provided that the county treasurer should be ex-officio supervisor of assessments.¹⁰ From that date until the present, the township assessors have worked under the direction of, and reported the assessment of property to, the county treasurer, acting in this ex-officio capacity. Every assessor is bonded in the sum of \$500. Bond for the supervisor of assessments is \$2,000 or such larger sum as the county board may determine.¹¹

For other taxation records, see entries 1, 25-46, 87[vi,xix,xx], 132, 134, 291[x], 312-326.

311. (TAX SCHEDULES), 1935--. In Tax Papers, entry 315. Tax schedules showing name of taxpayer, tax spread, and date and amount of payment.

1. L.1819, p. 313-19; L.1825, p. 173; L.1839, p. 4-6; L.1840, p. 4; L.1845, p. 6.

2. L.1825, p. 178.

3. Ibid., p. 173.

4. R.L.1827, p. 330.

5. L.1839, p. 4.

6. L.1843, p. 231,237. Effective in 1844.

7. Vermilion County adopted township organization in 1850, but the change was not effective until 1851.

8. L.1849, p. 192,205-7; L.1851, p. 38,54-57; L.1853, p. 14,15; L.1855, p. 35,37; L.1871-72, p. 20-24.

9. L.1849, p. 121,128; ibid., Second Sess., p. 38; L.1853, p. 14,17,47, 49,50; L.1871-72, p. 19,20,22,23.

10. L.1898, p. 36,37.

11. Ibid., p. 37-39; L.1923, p. 493,494; L.1927, p. 743,744; L.1931-33, First Sp. Sess., p. 66.

XI. BOARD OF REVIEW

The authority to assess, equalize, and review or revise the assessment of property, an important aspect of the revenue procedure, is exercised by the board of review.¹ Early legislation provided for appeals from assessments to the county commissioners' court. The court was empowered to review and revise assessments on real and personal property.² In 1849, when the county court succeeded the county commissioners' court in Vermilion County, appeals were made to that body.³ When township organization was instituted in 1851⁴ this jurisdiction was given to the town board composed of the township supervisor, clerk, and assessor.⁵ The board of supervisors in their annual meeting examined the assessment rolls in the several towns to ascertain whether the valuations in one town bore just relation to the valuations in all other towns in the county, and were empowered to increase or diminish the aggregate valuation of real estate in any town accordingly. They could make whatever alterations in the description of the lands of nonresidents they deemed necessary, and were required to assess the value of any lands omitted by the assessor.⁶ In 1872 the duties of the board of supervisors with regard to assessments were the following:

1. To assess omitted property.
2. To review assessments upon complaint.
3. To hear and determine the application of any person assessed on property claimed to be exempt from taxation.
4. To ascertain whether the valuation in one town or district bore just relation to the valuation in all towns or districts in the county and adjust the assessment.⁷

In 1898 this authority was transferred to the newly created board of review, composed of the chairman of the county board who became ex-officio chairman of the board of review, the county clerk, and one citizen

1. L.1898, p. 46-49; L.1915, p. 566-70; L.1919, p. 727; L.1923, p. 496-502; L.1930, Sp. Sess., p. 85-90; L.1931-32, First Sp. Sess., p. 70, 71, 75-78; L.1935, p. 1163-66.
2. L.1839, p. 7; L.1843, p. 237; L.1845, p. 8; R.S.1845, p. 441.
3. L.1849, p. 65.
4. Vermilion County adopted township organization in 1850, but the change was not effective until 1851.
5. L.1851, p. 56; L.1871-72, p. 21, 22, 24, 25.
6. L.1851, p. 57, 58; L.1871-72, p. 24, 25.
7. L.1871-72, p. 24, 25.

appointed by the county judge.¹ Since 1923 the board has consisted of the chairman of the county board as ex-officio chairman of the board of review, and two citizens appointed by the county judge. The members of the board select their own clerk. The two citizen members are appointed alternately for a two-year term.²

Today, the board of review in Vermilion County is required to assess taxable property omitted from the regular assessment, to review and correct assessments on property claimed to be incorrectly assessed, to increase or reduce the entire assessment if, in their opinion, it has not been made upon the proper basis, to hear and determine the application of any person assessed on property claimed to be exempt from taxation and to correct errors or mistakes, except errors of judgment, as to the valuation of any property, any time before judgment.³

For other taxation records, see entries 1, 25-46, 87[vi,xix,xx], 132, 134, 291[x], 311, 316-326.

312. BOARD OF REVIEW, 1937--. 7 f.b.

Personal property schedules passed upon by board of review, showing name of township, and name and address of owner, assessed valuation, valuation of board of review, type of property, and date of filing. Arr. alph. by names of owner and twp. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. $10\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{2} \times 14$. Treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

313. BOARD OF REVIEW MINUTE BOOK, 1899--. 5 v.

Record of proceedings of board of review, showing dates of meetings, roll call, list of objections to taxes, cause of complaint, and orders of board. Arr. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 500 p. $10 \times 13 \times 2\frac{1}{2}$. 1 v., 1899-1913, common vlt., 5th fl.; 4 v., 1914--, supervisors' rm., 3rd fl.

314. COMPLAINT DOCKET, 1899--. 4 v.

Board of review complaint docket showing date, number and cause of complaint, name of complainant, legal description and assessed valuation of property, and findings and orders of the board. Arr. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 240 p. $18 \times 14 \times 3$. 1 v., 1899-1912, common vlt., 5th fl.; 3 v., 1913--, supervisors' rm., 3rd fl.

1. L.1898, p. 46.

2. L.1923, p. 496,497; L.1931-32, First Sp. Sess., p. 71,72.

3. L.1898, p. 46-49; L.1915, p. 566-70; L.1919, p. 727; L.1923, p. 496-502; L.1930, Sp. Sess., p. 85-90; L.1931-32, First Sp. Sess., p. 70, 71,75-78; L.1935, p. 1163-66.

XII. COLLECTOR

Tax collections in Vermilion County were first made by the sheriff acting as ex-officio county collector.¹ With the exception of the period from 1839 to 1844, when there existed a separate office of county collector filled by appointment by the county commissioners' court,² the sheriff continued to act in this capacity until 1851; in that year township organization was instituted in this county,³ and tax collections became the joint responsibility of the townships and the county, with the county treasurer acting as ex-officio county collector.⁴

Under this plan, town collectors, elected one in each township,⁵ made collections of resident property taxes,⁶ while nonresident and delinquent taxes were collected by the county treasurer.⁷ By the terms of an act of 1855, the town collectors were required to return their tax lists or books to the county collector who delivered them to the county clerk.⁸ This provision was changed in 1872 by an act of the General Assembly which provided that the county collector should make an annual sworn statement to the county clerk, showing the total amount of each kind of tax collected, the amount received from each town collector, and the amount collected by himself.⁹

The collection procedure in Vermilion County was altered in 1917 when the legislature provided for the abolishment of the office of town collector in counties with fewer than one hundred thousand inhabitants, the county collector to be ex-officio town collector in such counties.¹⁰ As Vermilion County never attained this population minimum,¹¹ the county collector has since 1917 made collections for the townships as well as for the county.¹²

1. L.1823, p. 80; R.L.1827, p. 370,374.

2. L.1838-39, p. 7; L.1843, p. 234; L.1853, p. 99.

3. Vermilion County adopted township organization in 1850, but the change was not effective until 1851.

4. L.1851, p. 38,59-64; L.1853, p. 67.

5. L.1851, p. 38.

6. Ibid., p. 59.

7. Ibid., p. 53.

8. L.1855, p. 37.

9. L.1871-72, p. 56,57; L.1873-74, p. 56; L.1930, First Sp. Sess., p. 66, 67; L.1931, p. 756; L.1931-32, First Sp. Sess., p. 112; L.1933, p. 873, 921; L.1933-34, Third Sp. Sess., p. 220; L.1935, p. 1156, 1213; L.1935-36, Fourth Sp. Sess., p. 69,70.

10. L.1917, p. 793.

11. The population of Vermilion County was 77,996 in 1910; 86,162 in 1920; and 89,339 in 1930 (Population Bulletin, p. 9).

12. L.1925, p. 605; L.1929, p. 774,775; L.1931, p. 905-8; L.1933, p. 1115,111

The county collector is bonded in an amount determined upon by the county board in addition to that bond required of him as county treasurer.¹ Under statutory provisions, he collects taxes for the state, county, and other governmental agencies, and pays to the proper authorities the amount in his hands payable to them.² He also settles annually with the county board.³ He prepares an annual list of delinquent property and files it with the county clerk,⁴ advertises his intention of applying for judgment for sale of delinquent lands and lots,⁵ and is required to attend, in person or by deputy, all tax sales resulting from this action.⁶ The county clerk, in person or by deputy, is also required to attend all tax sales.⁷ At such sales, the clerk and collector note and make entry to all tax sales and forfeitures to the state.⁸

The county collector is required to keep his records as collector of taxes separate from his records as county treasurer.⁹ The records of the collector's office include duplicates of receipts issued to taxpayers, state auditor's and county clerk's certification of the collector's settlement with them, duplicates of the collector's reports, delinquent property records, and tax sale and forfeiture records.

For other taxation records, see entries 1, 25-46, 87[vi, xix, xx], 132, 135, 291[x], 311-314.

Collection, Settlement

315. TAX PAPERS, 1935--. 66 bdl., 116 f.b.
Duplicate tax receipts shewing name of taxpayer, legal description of property, amounts of payments and delinquent taxes, interest and advertising costs, date of payment, and treasurer's signature; also contains (Tax Schedules), entry 311. No obvious arr. No index. Hdw. and typed on pr. fm. Bdl. 6 x 8 x 8; f.b. 10 x 4½ x 14. Treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

1. L.1871-72, p. 36; L.1931, p. 748; L.1931-32, First Sp. Sess., p. 85, 86; L.1933-34, Third Sp. Sess., p. 225, 226.
2. L.1871-72, p. 56-59; L.1933, p. 922; L.1935, p. 1156, 1213; L.1935-36, Fourth Sp. Sess., p. 69, 70.
3. L.1871-72, p. 55; L.1935, p. 1155, 1156.
4. L.1898, p. 51; L.1931, p. 759.
5. L.1871-72, p. 44; L.1937, p. 1010.
6. L.1871-72, p. 48; L.1930, First Sp. Sess., p. 64.
7. L.1871-72, p. 48.
8. Ibid.; L.1933, p. 886.
9. L.1917, p. 664, 665; L.1930, First Sp. Sess., p. 60-62; L.1935, p. 1149-58.

Collector - Collection,
Settlement

316. CASH SETTLEMENT RECORD, 1872--. 8 v. (1 v., 1872-74; 2 v., 1872-1925; 5 v., 1921--). Title varies: County Collector's Accounts, 1 v., 1872-74; 2 v., 1872-1925.

County collector's accounts with town collectors, including a memorandum of taxes, showing amounts of taxes charged and collected, deductions for errors, amounts of abatements and extensions, and date, amount, and number of collector's voucher. Arr. by date of collection. No index. 1872-1925, hdw. under pr. hdgs.; 1921--, hdw. 240 - 300 p. 18 x 13 x 2 - 17 x 15 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. 1 v., 1872-74, 3 v., 1921-30, common vlt., 5th fl.; 2 v., 1872-1925, co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.; 2 v., 1931--, treas.'s off., 1st fl.

317. TAX LEDGER, 1897--. 9 v.

County collector's account with county treasurer of all taxes collected, showing amount charged to each account, tax spread, amount of collections and delinquent taxes, collector's commission, date, and total amount of tax collected. Also includes City and Village Tax, 1899--, entry 319. Arr. by date of collection. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 600 p. 17 x 15 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. 7 v., 1897-1930, common vlt., 5th fl.; 2 v., 1931--, treas.'s off., 1st fl.

318. JOURNAL, 1909--. 84 v. (28 v., 1909-18; 56 v., 1915--). Title varies: Collection Register, 4 v., 1909-17; Daily Collections, 24 v., 1918.

Journal of daily tax collections, showing date, amount, and kind of tax, date and number of certificate, and name and address of taxpayer. The volumes for 1915-18 entitled Journal are duplicates of records from 1915-18. Arr. by date of collection. No index. 1909-18, hdw. under pr. hdgs.; 1915--, hdw. 75 - 500 p. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 17 x 14 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. 28 v., 1909-18, 45 v., 1915-30, common vlt., 5th fl.; 8 v., 1931-36, treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.; 3 v., 1937--, treas.'s off., 1st fl.

319. CITY AND VILLAGE TAX, 1891-98. 1 v. 1899-- in Tax Ledger, entry 317.

County collector's account with county treasurer of all city and village taxes, showing amount of tax levies, date, amount delinquent, and total amount of tax collections. Arr. by date of tax levy. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 424 p. 18 x 12 x 2. Common vlt., 5th fl.

320. TREASURER'S ACCOUNT BOOK (Collector), 1872-1934. 2 v.

County collector's register of accounts with county treasurer, showing dates and amounts of real, personal, delinquent, and forfeited tax collections, tax spread, collector's commissions, and remarks. Arr. by date of collection. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 350 p. 18 x 12 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

Collector - Delinquent
Tax, Abatement; Special
Assessments

Delinquent Tax, Abatement

321. PAID FORFEITURES AND DELINQUENT PERSONAL TAXES, 1927--. 11 f.b. Duplicate receipts for delinquent personal property and real estate taxes, including real estate forfeitures, showing date, amount, number, and purpose of receipt, kind of property, legal description of real estate, and name and address of taxpayer. Arr. alph. by name of twp. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. $10\frac{1}{2}$ x $4\frac{1}{2}$ x 14. Treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

322. ERRORS, ABATEMENT AND DOUBLE PAYMENT OF TAXES, 1930--. 5 f.b. Lists of errors, delinquent taxes, and double payment of taxes, showing name and address of taxpayer, legal description of property, amount of error, delinquency, or double payment of taxes, date, and amounts due taxpayer or county. Arr. by date due. No index. Typed. $10\frac{1}{2}$ x $4\frac{1}{2}$ x 14. Treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

For prior and concurrent records in bound form, see entry 33.

323. FORFEITURE TAX RECORD, 1919--. 20 v. List of real estate forfeited for taxes, showing name of taxpayer, date, amounts of delinquent taxes and court costs, and date of forfeiture. Arr. by date of forfeiture. Indexed alph. by name of addition or twp. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 200 p. 17 x 15 x 1. 17 v., 1919-33, common vlt., 5th fl.; 3 v., 1934--, treas.'s off., 1st fl.

324. PAID FORFEITURE TAX RECORD, 1924--. 17 v. Register of real estate forfeited for taxes and redeemed, showing name of owner and redeemer, location and legal description of property, amounts of delinquent tax and costs, and date of redemption. Arr. by date of redemption. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 100 p. 17 x 15 x 1. 13 v., 1924-31, common vlt., 5th fl.; 4 v., 1932--, treas.'s off., 1st fl.

Special Assessments

325. SPECIAL ASSESSMENT TAX LIST, DELINQUENT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT, 1914-33. 6 f.b. Lists of delinquent special assessments, showing date, type of assessment, name of owner, location and legal description of assessed property, amount of delinquency, and remarks. Arr. by date due. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. $10\frac{1}{2}$ x $4\frac{1}{2}$ x 14. Treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

For other similar records in bound form, see entry 35.

326. VILLAGE OF TILTON (Improvements), 1925-27. 1 f.b. Statements of special assessments collected and remitted to village board for improvements in village of Tilton, including reports of expenditures, showing date and amount of collections and remittances, name of recipient, amount, date, and purpose of payment, and on what improvement applied. Arr. by date of collection. No index. Hdw. and typed. $10\frac{1}{2}$ x $4\frac{1}{2}$ x 14. Treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

XIII. TREASURER

In Vermilion County, the sheriff assumed the duties of treasurer¹ from 1826 to 1827, when the legislature reestablished the office of county treasurer and provided that he be appointed annually by the county commissioners' court.² From 1837 to the present the treasurer has been elected by the people of the county for a four-year term,³ and is commissioned by the Governor.⁴ In 1880, by amendment to the Constitution of 1870, it was provided that no treasurer be eligible for reelection to the office until four years after the expiration of his term of office.⁵ The penal sum of the treasurer's bond and his securities are determined by the county board.⁶ Upon request of the treasurer, the board designates the bank in which the public funds are to be deposited.

In the performance of his duties, the treasurer receives the county revenue, has custody of its funds, and disburses them in accordance with orders of the county board or specific authorization by law. He is required to keep books of accounts of all funds received and disbursed by him, to maintain a register of county orders countersigned and paid, to report annually to the county board on the financial transactions of his office, and to settle his accounts with the board semiannually.⁷ The last two requirements give rise to a number of segregated records of accounts beyond strict statutory requirements. In addition, reports are made to the treasurer by other county, district, public, and semipublic authorities in the process of transacting business with him; and finally, a large number of records arise from the requirement for collectors of taxes to settle their accounts with the treasurer.⁸

1. L.1825, p. 178.

2. R.L.1827, p. 329; R.L.1833, p. 515,516.

3. L.1837, p. 49,274; L.1845, p. 28; R.S.1845, p. 137; L.1851, p. 144; Constitution of 1870, Art. X, sec. 8.

4. The term was set at four years in 1837 (L.1837, p. 274); it was later reduced to two years (L.1845, p. 28; L.1851, p. 144). The office was made constitutional in 1870 without change of term (Constitution of 1870, Art. X, sec. 8). Then in 1880, the term was lengthened to four years (Constitution of 1870, Art. X, sec. 8, as amended November, 1880).

5. Constitution of 1870, Art. X, sec. 8, as amended November, 1880.

6. R.L.1827, p. 329; R.S.1874, p. 323. The bond is required to be filed in the office of the county clerk.

7. L.1837, p. 582,583; L.1843, p. 151; R.S.1845, p. 137-39; L.1861, p. 239,240; R.S.1874, p. 323,324.

8. R.L.1827, p. 330-33; L.1839, p. 8-10; L.1845, p. 11; L.1895, p. 304; L.1913, p. 516; L.1933, p. 898.

Treasurer - General
Accounts

The treasurer acts as ex-officio treasurer of the special drainage district.¹

General Accounts
(See also entries 4-13, 351-358)

Registers and Ledgers

327. GENERAL CASH LEDGER, 1868--. 4 v. Title varies: Account Book, 3 v., 1868-1916.

Treasurer's account of county funds and appropriations, including accounts of births and deaths, 1903--, mothers' pension fund, 1913--, institute, non-high school, and dog license funds, and record of jury and witness fees, showing date and amount of appropriation, date, amount, and purpose of credits and debits, name of payer or recipient, total amount of credits and debits, and balance available; also contains Cash Accounts (Drainage District), 1868-1909, 1923--, entry 346. 1868-1915, arr. by date of credit or debit; 1916--, arr. alph. by name of account. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 120 - 250 p. 18 x 12 x 1½ - 12 x 14 x 2. 3 v., 1868-1915, common vlt., 5th fl.; 1 v., 1916--, treas.'s off., 1st fl.

328. REGISTER OF FEES, 1886--. 1 v.

Register of fees collected by county officers and paid to county treasurer, showing date, amount, and purpose of fee, name of payer, and total amount of fees. Arr. by date of collection. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 200 p. 18 x 12 x 2. Treas.'s off., 1st fl.

329. LEDGER, 1883-1926. 21 v.

County treasurer's account of funds received, showing date, amount, and purpose of receipt, fund credited, and name of payer. Arr. by date of collection. Indexed alph. by name of account. Hdw. 150 p. 12½ x 18½ x 1½. 20 v., 1883-1924, common vlt., 5th fl.; 1 v., 1925-26, treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

Cash Books

330. DAILY CASH BOOK, 1916--. 17 v.

Daily cash balance of county treasurer, showing date, balance brought forward, amount and purpose of receipts and disbursements, total daily receipts and disbursements, and balance available. Arr. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 250 p. 8 x 7 x 1. 10 v., 1916-30, common vlt., 5th fl.; 6 v., 1931-36, treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.; 1 v., 1937--, treas.'s off., 1st fl.

1. L.1885, p. 78,104.

331. CASH BOOK, 1916--. 2 v.

Register of cash receipts and disbursements of county treasurer, showing date, amount, and purpose of receipts and disbursements, name of recipient or payer, total amount of receipts and disbursements, and balance available. Arr. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 250 p. 18 x 15 x 2. 1 v., 1916-26, treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.; 1 v., 1927--, treas.'s off., 1st fl.

County Orders

332. WARRANTS AND VOUCHERS, 1915--. 47 f.b.

Cancelled county orders showing date, amount, number, and purpose of order, fund debited, name of recipient, and counter signature of county auditor. Arr. by date of order. No index. Typed on pr. fm. 10 x 4 1/2 x 14. Treas.'s off., 1st fl.

333. COUNTY ORDERS ISSUED - WARRANT RECORD, 1882--. 14 v.

Register of county warrants, including jury certificates, showing date, amount, number, and purpose of warrant, name of recipient, and date of cancellation. Arr. by date of warrant or certificate. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 500 p. 16 x 12 x 2. 9 v., 1882-1923, common vlt., 5th fl.; 5 v., 1924--, treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

334. CANCELLED COUNTY ORDERS AND JURY CERTIFICATES, 1904-14. 2 v.

Register of cancelled county orders and jury certificates, showing date, amount, purpose, and number of order, name of recipient, and date of cancellation. Arr. by date of order or certificate. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 300 p. 16 x 12 x 3. Common vlt., 5th fl.

Special Accounts

Probate

335. NON-RESIDENT HEIRS, 1914--. 1 f.b.

Court orders authorizing treasurer to pay inheritance to out-of-state heirs, showing name of estate, names and addresses of heirs, and amount and date of payment. Arr. by date of order. No index. Typed. 10 1/2 x 4 1/2 x 14. Treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

Inheritance Tax

336. INHERITANCE TAX, 1916--. 4 f.b.

Record of inheritance tax collections, including court orders fixing amount of tax, showing names of estate and heirs, value of estate, amount of tax assessments, and date of payment. Arr. by date of entry. No index. Typed on pr. fm. 10 1/2 x 4 1/2 x 14. Treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

Treasurer - Special
Accounts

337. INHERITANCE TAX (Register), 1917--. 3 v.

Register of taxes levied on inheritances, showing case number, names of estate, attorneys, and heirs, amounts of inheritance, deductible allowance, disbursements, and exemption, rate of tax, total amount of tax due, and date of payment. Arr. by date of payment. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 200 p. 15 x 12 x 1. Treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

Highway (See also
entries 395-401, 404)

338. ROAD BONDS, 1915--. 10 f.b.

Cancelled original road bonds, showing date, amount, and terms of bond, rate of interest, date of maturity, where payable, and signatures of county clerk and chairman of county board. Arr. by date of bond. No index. Typed and hdw. on pr. fm. $10\frac{1}{2}$ x $4\frac{1}{2}$ x 14. Treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

339. REGISTER OF ROAD BONDS, 1915--. 3 v. (1-3). Last entry 1935. Register of bonds issued for building county roads, showing date, number, terms, and amount of bond, name of purchaser, rate of interest, date payable, stipulations of payment, amount of receipts for each bond, and date of cancellation. Arr. by date of bond. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 600 p. 10 x 8 x 3. Treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

340. CHANCERY PAPERS (Corporations' Funds), 1918--. 1 f.b. Last entry 1925.

Requests of corporations to withhold payment of contractors for county work until material used has been paid for, showing names of contractor and corporation, date, amount, and kind of material purchased, and date of request. Arr. by date of request. No index. Hdw. and typed. $10\frac{1}{2}$ x $4\frac{1}{2}$ x 14. Treas.'s off., 1st fl.

Dog License

341. PAID SHEEP CLAIMS, 1922--. 3 f.b.

Affidavits for claims filed by sheep owners, showing name and oath of owner, number of sheep killed, amount of damages, date, case number, signature of supervisor, and date, number, and amount of voucher. Arr. by case no. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. $10\frac{1}{2}$ x $4\frac{1}{2}$ x 14. Treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

342. SHEEP CLAIMS, 1925--. 1 v.

Register of sheep claims and damages, showing name and address of claimant, number of sheep killed, date, amount, and numbers of claim and warrant, names of witnesses, and amount of witness fees. Arr. by date of claim. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 200 p. 14 x 12 x 1. Treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

Court Costs

343. UNCLAIMED WITNESS FEES, 1915--. 1 f.b.

Lists of unclaimed witness fees, showing date and amount of fee, and name of witness. Arr. by date of fee. No index. Typed. $10\frac{1}{2}$ x $4\frac{1}{2}$ x 14. Treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

Treasurer - Reports;
Receipts, Checks, Bank State-
ments

Emergency and Old Age
Relief (See also entries 415, 419)

344. RELIEF PAPERS, 1932-33. 7 f.b.
Relief orders of Vermilion County emergency relief commission paid by county treasurer, showing date, amount, number, and purpose of order, name of recipient, and signature of relief official. No obvious arr. No index. Hdw. and typed on pr. fm. 18 x 18 x 20. Common vlt., 5th fl.

Drainage

345. CANCELLED COUPONS AND BONDS, 1915-18. 1 f.b.
Cancelled coupons and bonds for Jamesburg special drainage district, showing date, amount, number, and terms of bonds, rate of interest, name of principal, and dates of filing and cancellation. Arr. by date of filing. No index. Typed on pr. fm. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 14. Treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

346. CASH ACCOUNTS (Drainage District), 1910-22. 1 v. 1868-1909, 1923-- in General Cash Ledger, entry 327.
County treasurer's accounts with drainage districts, showing date and amount of collections, and name and location of district. Arr. by date of collection. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 200 p. 11 x 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 1. Common vlt., 5th fl.

Reports

347. MONTHLY STATEMENTS, 1925--. 2 f.b.
Copies of monthly and semiannual reports of county treasurer to county board, including list of county orders cancelled and returned, and reports of tax collections. Arr. by date of report. No index. Typed. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 14. Treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

Receipts, Checks, and Bank Statements

348. CANCELLED ORDERS AND JURY CERTIFICATE RECEIPTS, 1915--. 1 f.b.
Receipts issued by the county clerk to county treasurer for county orders cancelled and returned, showing date, total amount of orders, name of treasurer, and signature of county clerk. No obvious arr. No index. Hdw. and typed on pr. fm. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 14. Treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

349. RECEIPTS AND SETTLEMENT, 1919--. 1 f.b.
County treasurer's receipts from state treasurer for taxes received, showing date and amount of payment, date and number of receipt, and signature of state treasurer. Arr. by date of receipt. No index. Hdw. and typed on pr. fm. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 14. Treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

350. PAYROLL RECEIPTS, 1924--. 3 f.b.

Receipts given to county treasurer by county employees acknowledging payment of salaries, showing date, amount, and number of order, date of payment, and signature of employee. Arr. by date of payment. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. $10\frac{1}{2}$ x $4\frac{1}{2}$ x 14. Treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

XIV. AUDITOR

In 1911 the General Assembly enacted legislation requiring all counties under township organization with a population of more than seventy-five thousand and less than three hundred thousand to elect, in November, 1912, and every four years thereafter, a county auditor.¹ As Vermilion County had already attained the population minimum by that year, the office was accordingly established. As provided in the act, compensation is in such sum as the county board may set.² Since 1925, by an amendment to the original law, the county auditor has been required to furnish such bond as is deemed sufficient by the county board, which bond is filed with the county clerk.³

The auditor is charged with the following duties:

1. To audit all claims against the county, recommending to the county board their payment or rejection.
2. To collect statistical information with respect to the cost of maintenance of such institutions as the county farm, jail, workhouse, and courthouse.
3. To approve, before issuance, all orders of county officials for supplies.
4. To make a quarterly audit of all county offices.⁴

He is also required to keep a record of all contracts entered into by the county board and all authorized county officers, to report quarterly to the board all fees and emoluments due the county from its various officers, and to keep necessary records of his other acts in pursuance of the duties of his office.⁵

1. L.1911, p. 242,243.
2. Ibid., p. 242.
3. L.1925, p. 263.
4. L.1911, p. 242.
5. Ibid., p. 242,243.

Auditor - Accounts of
County Funds

Accounts of County Funds
(See also entries 4-13, 327-350)

Appropriations

351. LEDGER, 1916--. 5 v.

Auditor's ledger account of county appropriations, showing name of fund, date and amount of appropriation, date, number, and amount of orders issued, and balance on hand. Arr. alph. by title of fund. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 400 p. 12 x 9 x 3. 3 v., 1916-27, common vlt., 5th fl.; 2 v., 1928--, aud.'s rear off., 3rd fl.

352. CASH BOOK OR EXPENDITURE LEDGER, 1916--. 10 v.

Ledger of expenditures of county funds, showing date, number, purpose, and amount of warrant, and names of payee and fund drawn upon. Arr. by date of payment. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 350 p. 14 x 12 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. 5 v., 1916-27, common vlt., 5th fl.; 5 v., 1928--, aud.'s front off., 3rd fl.

County Supplies

353. PURCHASE ORDERS, 1916--. 2 f.b.

Vouchers for supplies purchased for county offices, showing date, nature, and amount of purchase, and name of office. Arr. by date of voucher. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 9 x 8 x 24. 1 f.b., 1916-26, common vlt., 5th fl.; 1 f.b., 1927--, aud.'s front off., 3rd fl.

354. PURCHASE LEDGER, 1916--. 8 v.

Ledger of office supplies purchased for county offices, showing date, cost and description of article, and name of company from whom purchased, and for what office purchased. Arr. by date of order. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 330 p. 14 x 12 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. 5 v., 1916-19, common vlt., 5th fl.; 3 v., 1920--, aud.'s front off., 3rd fl.

County Warrants

355. COUNTY WARRANTS AND VOUCHERS, 1915--. 93 f.b.

Warrants for county expenses issued by auditor, showing date, number, purpose, and amount of warrant, and name of payee. Arr. by date of warrant. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 10 x 5 x 14 - 6 x 12 x 30. 26 f.b., 1915-34, common vlt., 5th fl.; 42 f.b., 1935-36, aud.'s rear off., 3rd fl.; 25 f.b., 1937--, aud.'s front off., 3rd fl.

356. DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENSE, 1916--. 19 f.b.

Lists of warrants issued for payment of expenses, showing name of officer, itemized list of expenses, date, amount, and number of warrant, name of payee, and purpose of issue. Arr. chron. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 10 x 5 x 14. Aud.'s front off., 3rd fl.

Emergency Relief

357. CLAIMS FOR POOR, 1935-36. 29 f.b. 1933-34 in Supervisors' Papers, entry 1. Subsequent to 1936 handled by townships. Claims for emergency relief funds, showing names of claimant and township, and date and amount of claim. Arr. alph. by name of claimant. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 10 x 5 x 15 - 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 6 x 24. 5 f.b., 1935, aud.'s front off., 3rd fl.; 24 f.b., 1936, aud.'s rear off., 3rd fl.

Reports

358. MONTHLY STATEMENTS, 1916--. 2 f.b.

County officials' monthly statements to auditor, showing dates, amounts of receipts and expenditures, and cash on hand. Arr. by date of statement. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 10 x 5 x 14. Aud.'s rear off., 3rd fl.

XV. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

The first county school official in Vermilion County was the county school commissioner.¹ The principal duties of this officer, an appointee of the county commissioners' court, centered around the sale of school lands. His reports of these sales were made to the county commissioners' court and recorded by their clerk in a well-bound book kept for that purpose.² The school commissioner also reported to the county commissioners' court on his other transactions in regard to the school fund.³ His office became elective in 1841.⁴ In 1845 the office of county superintendent of schools was created as an ex-officio office of the county school commissioner.⁵ For his ex-officio duties as superintendent of schools, the commissioner received additional compensation for the days actually engaged in the performance of these duties.⁶ Beginning with the year 1847, the school commissioner was elected for a two-year term.⁷ In 1865 the office of county superintendent of schools was established as an

1. R.L.1829, p. 150,151.

2. Ibid., p. 152,153; L.1849, p. 155, 156,159,160; L.1851, p. 130.

3. L.1831, p. 175.

4. L.1841, p. 261,262.

5. L.1845, p. 54.

6. L.1849, p. 178; L.1867, p. 161.

7. L.1847, p. 120; L.1849, p. 154.

independent office, and had delegated to it the authority formerly vested in the county school commissioner.¹

The superintendent of schools is a statutory office, now elective for a term of four years.² The superintendent's office serves as the central school administrative agency for the county. One or more of the several congressional townships comprise the several school districts. Within these administrative units are elected boards of trustees who have executive and financial responsibilities which come under the supervision of the county superintendent.³ The boards of trustees appoint their own treasurers who also act as clerks of the township (or school district) boards.⁴

The superintendent makes quarterly and annual reports to the county board and also reports to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the State Department of Public Health, the state fire marshal, and the state architect. His original duties are the following:

1. To sell township fund lands and issue certificates of purchase.
2. To examine the complete accounts of every township treasurer in his county and report irregularities to the township trustees.
3. To conduct a teachers' institute, hold quarterly examinations for teachers' certificates, and issue such.
4. To hold examinations for normal and university scholarships.
5. To visit the public schools in the county, observe methods of instruction, make recommendations to teachers, and advise school officers; to observe sanitary and safety conditions, and notify trustees and state authorities of unsatisfactory conditions; to inspect plans and specifications, and approve those meeting state regulations.⁵

A noteworthy undertaking of the superintendent of schools is the annual teachers' institute. Pioneer legislation of 1869 provided that the school directors were to allow school teachers to attend the teachers' institute in their county without the loss of time or pay.⁶ Twenty

1. L.1865, p. 112; L.1871-72, p. 702; L.1889, p. 312; L.1909, p. 343.
2. L.1871-72, p. 702; L.1909, p. 343; L.1915, p. 628; L.1923, p. 596.
3. L.1847, p. 126; L.1909, p. 350; L.1929, p. 745.
4. L.1927, p. 843; L.1929, p. 745.
5. R. S.1845, p. 498, 499; L.1847, p. 122; L.1849, p. 156; L.1853, p. 246, 247; L.1855, p. 66, 67; L.1861, p. 190, 191; L.1865, p. 119, 120; L.1909, p. 347-50; L.1915, p. 636-38.
6. L.1869, p. 394.

Superintendent of Schools -
Accounts of School Funds

years later, the superintendent of schools was required to hold the institute annually.¹ A fund was set up for this purpose which has continued to be made up of the fees received from applicants for teachers' certificates and from teachers' registration. Money from the fund is paid out only on the order of the superintendent to defray the expenses of the annual institute. When the fund exceeds the annual cost of the institute, the excess may be paid out for special meetings of teachers.²

Accounts of School Funds
(See also entry 390[xiv])

359. STATE FUND STATEMENTS, 1924--. 4 f.b.

Statements by county superintendent of schools to school district trustees relative to state tax fund allotments, showing names of superintendent and school, school district number, amount of allotment and district expenditures, balance and date of statement. Arr. by date of statement. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 11 x 5 x 14. Off. of supt. of sch., 3rd fl.

360. TEACHERS' INSTITUTE RECORD, 1895--. 8 v.

Attendance record at teachers' institutes, showing names and addresses of teachers attending, date and time of attendance, and amount of payments into institute fund. Arr. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 430 p. 16 x 11 x 2. Strm. of supt. of sch., 3rd fl.

361. TOWNSHIP TREASURER'S ACCOUNT BOOK, 1908-14. 1 v.

Account record of superintendent of schools with township treasurers, showing amount and date of allotments to township, dates and amounts of payments for salaries, repairs, and interest and principal on school bond issues, expense of running schools, and totals. Arr. by date of payment. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 320 p. 16 x 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Strm. of supt. of sch., 3rd fl.

For subsequent trustees' reports of school funds, see entry 378.

1. L.1889, p. 312.

2. L.1905, p. 385; L.1931, p. 876.

Superintendent of Schools -
Sale of School Lands; District
Records; Teachers' Records

Sale of School Lands
(See also entry 390[ix])

362. RECORD OF SALE OF SCHOOL LANDS, 1832-57. 2 v. (A, B). All school land sold by 1857.

Record of sale of school lands, including petitions and plats of land, showing names of petitioners, township, and school commissioners, name and address of purchaser, location and description of land, valuation, order for sale, number of acres, selling price per acre, and date and amount of sale. Arr. by date of sale. Indexed by twp. no. Hdw., hand-drawn, and hdw. under pr. hdgs. 600 p. 14 x 10 x 3. Off. of supt. of sch., 3rd fl.

District Records

363. BUDGET (Claims for State Aid), 1925--. 12 bdl., 1 f.b.

Claims for state aid, showing number of school district, financial statement of district, general information, names of teachers, budget, and signature of clerk of board of directors. No obvious arr. No index. Typed on pr. fm. 11 x 5 x 14. Off. of supt. of sch., 3rd fl.

364. DIRECTORS' BULLETINS, 1935--. 1 f.b.

Bulletins of instructions and other data issued by county superintendent of schools to directors of various school districts, showing date and place of issue, and subject reviewed. Arr. by date of bulletin. No index. Typed. 11 x 5 x 14. Off. of supt. of sch., 3rd fl.

Teachers' Records

365. LIST OF TEACHERS IN COUNTY, 1914--. 2 f.b., 1 v.

Lists of grade school teachers in county, showing name, address, and salary of teacher, and date of compilation of list. Subsequent to 1924 these lists are bound in volume form. No obvious arr. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. F.b. 11 x 5 x 14; v. 200 p. 15 x 10 x 1. Off. of supt. of sch., 3rd fl.

366. TEACHERS' BULLETINS, 1933--. 2 f.b.

Duplicate copies of bulletins sent to teachers of meetings scheduled by county superintendent of schools, showing name and address of teacher, date of issue of bulletin, name of local school superintendent, and date, place, and kind of meeting. No obvious arr. No index. Typed. 11 x 5 x 14. Off. of supt. of sch., 3rd fl.

367. TEACHERS EMPLOYED, 1936--. 1 f.b.

Lists of teachers employed, showing name, address, and salary of teacher, grade taught, name and location of school, and date of appointment by directors. Arr. chron. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 11 x 5 x 14. Off. of supt. of sch., 3rd fl.

Superintendent of Schools -
Pupil Records

368. TEACHERS' PERMANENT RECORD CARD, 1881--. 10 v. (1, 2 not labeled, A-G); 4 f.b. Missing: 1923-28.

Permanent record of teachers, showing name and address of teacher, date of birth, schools attended, subjects taken and examination grades, type and date of certificate, record of employment, and amount of payment for renewal of certificates; also contains pension fund contribution records subsequent to 1914. Also contains County Superintendent's Examination Record, 1881-1913, entry 369, and Cash Book, 1914-22, 1933--, entry 389. Arr. by date of certificate. No index. 1881-1913, hdw. under pr. hdgs.; 1914--, hdw. on pr. fm. V. 400 - 480 p. 10 x 16 x 1½ - 18 x 13 x 2; f.b. 11 x 5 x 14. V. 1, 2 not labeled, A-G, 1881-1922, strm. of supt. of sch., 3rd fl.; 4 f.b., 1929--, off. of supt. of sch., 3rd fl.

369. COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT'S EXAMINATION RECORD, 1914--. 1 v.
1881-1913 in Teachers' Permanent Record Card, entry 368.

Superintendent of schools record of teachers' examinations, showing name and address of teacher, date of examination, examination grade, and grade of certificate. Arr. by date of examination. No index. Typed under pr. hdgs. 300 p. 14 x 8 x 3. Off. of supt. of sch., 3rd fl.

370. RECORD OF TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION, 1882-1921. 2 v.

Minutes of meetings of county teachers' association, showing names of members present, subjects of discussion, resolutions passed, and dates of meetings. Arr. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 150 p. 13 x 8 x 1. Strm. of supt. of sch., 3rd fl.

Pupil Records

371. NON-HIGH SCHOOL BILLS (Claims for Tuition), 1918--. 1 f.b. Certificates of attendance of non-high school pupils and claims for tuition, showing name and age of pupil, name and address of parents or guardian, home district number, year of course, months of attendance, amount of tuition claims, and dates of certificate and claim. Arr. by date of certificate or claim. No index. Hdw. and typed on pr. fm. 11 x 5 x 14. Off. of supt. of sch., 3rd fl.

372. TRUANCY NOTICES, 1922-27. 1 f.b.

Truant officers' notices to parents and guardians to send children to school, showing names of parents or guardian, teacher, and truant officer, address of parents, school district number, name and age of child, and date of notice. No obvious arr. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 11 x 5 x 14. Off. of supt. of sch., 3rd fl.

373. RECORD CASES OF TRUANCY, 1914--. 2 v.

Truancy record showing name and grade of pupil, names and addresses of parents or guardian, teacher, and school, number of district, action of school board, date of report, and name of truant officer. Arr. chron. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 350 p. 14 x 12 x 2. Off. of supt. of sch., 3rd fl.

Superintendent of Schools -
Reports

374. EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATE BOOK, 1914--. 3 v.
List of eighth-grade graduates in common schools, showing names and ages of graduates, examination grades, and date and school of graduation. Arr. by date of graduation. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 350 p. 17 x 13 x 3. Off. of supt. of sch., 3rd fl.

375. SCHOOL CENSUS OF VERMILION COUNTY, ILLINOIS, 1924--. 14 v.
Census of children attending schools in county, showing names, ages, and addresses of children, names of parents or guardians, and date of census. Arr. by date of census. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 400 p. 9 x 14 x 2. Off. of supt. of sch., 3rd fl.

376. HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES, 1872-1904. 1 v.
Register of high school graduates, showing names and addresses of pupils, name of school, and date of graduation. Arr. by date of graduation. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 200 p. 14 x 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 1. Strm. of supt. of sch., 3rd fl.

377. RECORD OF EXAMINATIONS, 1895-1908. 1 v.
Register of pupils taking eighth-grade examinations, showing names of pupils and school of attendance, examination grade, and date of examination. Arr. by date of examination. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 300 p. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 1. Strm. of supt. of sch., 3rd fl.

Reports
(See also entry 390[iii,xiv])

378. SCHOOL TRUSTEES (and School Treasurers') ANNUAL REPORTS,
1837--. 24 f.b.
Annual statements of school trustees and of school treasurers, subsequent to 1858, including poll book for school elections, 1837-48, showing names of school, trustees, teachers, and treasurer, school census, district number, promotion, attendance, health of pupils, income from taxes and other sources, qualifications and annual salaries of teachers, and account of expenditures. Arr. chron. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 11 x 5 x 14. Off. of supt. of sch., 3rd fl.

379. ANNUAL REPORT, 1856--. 83 v.
Annual reports of county superintendent of schools to state superintendent of public instruction, showing school census, enrollments, names of teachers, qualifications, promotion of health and attendance, tax levies, annual salaries of elementary and high school teachers, district, distributive, and township fund reports, receipts and expenditure records, tuition payments, exhibits, investments, general and financial statistics, number of one-room schools and general memoranda. Arr. by date of report. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 30 p. 15 x 9 x $\frac{1}{2}$. Off. of supt. of sch., 3rd fl.

Superintendent of Schools -
Register of School Officers

380. HIGH SCHOOL EXPENDITURES, 1905--. 1 f.b.
Financial reports of high schools, made by school boards to county superintendent of schools, showing district number, name of school, date, amount, and purpose of expenditures, and date of report. Arr. by date of report. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 11 x 5 x 14. Off. of supt. of sch., 3rd fl.

381. TEACHERS' ANNUAL REPORTS, 1912--. 11 f.b. Title varies:
Teachers' Summary Reports, 3 f.b., 1912-14.
Teachers' annual reports to superintendent of schools, showing school district number, names of teacher and school, school term, attendance record, average grade made in each subject by pupils, total number of pupils, promotions, amount of payments for salaries and supplies, and date of report. Arr. by date of report. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 11 x 5 x 14. Off. of supt. of sch., 3rd fl.

382. TEACHERS' PENSION, 1916--. 3 f.b.
Reports on teachers' pension fund, showing names and addresses of teachers eligible for pension, number of years in service and name of schools, nature and amount of contribution, and date of report. Arr. by date of report. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 11 x 5 x 14. Off. of supt. of sch., 3rd fl.

383. TEACHERS' BI-MONTHLY REPORTS, 1916--. 20 f.b.
Teachers' bi-monthly reports to county superintendent of schools, showing names of township and teacher, school district number, date, total enrollment, average and percentage of daily attendance, and examination grades of pupils. Arr. by date of report. Hdw. on pr. fm. 11 x 5 x 14. Off. of supt. of sch., 3rd fl.

384. SANITARY INSPECTION, 1919-23. 1 f.b. Subsequently kept by State Department of Public Health.
Reports on school health conditions by sanitary inspectors, showing school district number, prevailing conditions, suggestions for improvements, date of report, and name and location of school. No obvious arr. No index. Typed. 11 x 5 x 14. Off. of supt. of sch., 3rd fl.

Register of School Officers

385. SCHOOL DIRECTORS, 1900--. 2 v.
Register of school directors, showing district numbers, names of directors, and term of office. Arr. by district no. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 400 p. 15 x 12 x 3. Off. of supt. of sch., 3rd fl.

386. SCHOOL OFFICERS, 1901--. 3 f.b.
Lists of school officers, showing names of township and officers, and date. Arr. alph. by name of township. No index. Hdw. and typed. 11 x 5 x 14. Off. of supt. of sch., 3rd fl.

Superintendent of Schools -
School Treasurers' Bonds; Receipts,
Expenditures; Papers

School Treasurers' Bonds

387. TOWNSHIP TREASURERS' BONDS, 1922--. 1 f.b. 1865-1921 in
Miscellaneous Papers, entry 390.

Bonds of township school treasurers, showing names of township, principal, and sureties, address of principal, and date, amount, and obligation of bond. Arr. by date of bond. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 10 x 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 12. Off. of supt. of sch., 3rd fl.

Receipts and Expenditures

388. STATE FUND CHECKS, 1918--. 3 f.b. Title varies: State Fund
Vouchers, 2 f.b., 1918-33.

Cancelled checks and vouchers for moneys paid from state fund, showing name of payee, and purpose, date, and amount of voucher. Arr. by date of issue. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 11 x 5 x 14. Off. of supt. of sch., 3rd fl.

389. CASH BOOK, 1923-32. 1 v. 1914-22, 1933-- in Teachers'
Permanent Record Card, entry 368.

Daily record of fees received by county superintendent of schools for renewal of teachers' certificates, showing date and amount of receipts, name of teacher, and grade of certificate. Arr. by date of receipt. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 50 p. 12 x 8 x $\frac{1}{2}$. Strm. of supt. of sch., 3rd fl.

Miscellaneous Papers

390. MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS, 1824--. 9 f.b.

Miscellaneous documents filed with superintendent of schools, including:

- i. Abstracts of title to school property, 1855-70, showing location and legal description of property, all conveyances, mortgages, and deeds, names of owner, grantor, grantee, mortgagor, mortgagee, and abstractor, consideration, and dates of conveyances, mortgages, deeds, recording, and filing.
- ii. Certificates of purchase of school property, 1844, 1848, 1849, 1853-58, 1862, showing date, legal description and location of property, name of purchaser, and terms and amount of sale.
- iii. County treasurer's report to county superintendent of schools on condition of school funds, 1919--, showing balance at end of fiscal year, amount of taxes credited to school fund, amount and source of other receipts, amount of election and incidental expenditures, total amount of receipts and disbursements, balance available, and date of filing.
- iv. Deeds to school property, 1834, 1841, 1845, 1848-49, 1853-55, 1857, 1862, 1871, showing district number, names of grantee and grantor, location and legal description of property, consideration, and dates of instrument, filing, and recording.

- v. Non-high school district poll books, 1928--, showing date, place, and purpose of election, oaths of judges and clerks, names of candidates and voters, tally sheets, total number of votes cast for each candidate, and date of filing.
- vi. Papers pertaining to the organization of community consolidated school districts, 1917, 1920, including proof of posting notices of election, petitions for formation of districts, petitions of candidates for election to board of directors, and poll books.
- vii. Papers pertaining to organization and establishment of township high schools, 1912-16, 1918, 1919, including petition for establishment of township high school district, certificates of posting notices of election, notices of appointment to election board, copy of election notices, district and township poll books, and notices to trustees to hold election.
- viii. Papers pertaining to establishment and organization of community high school districts, 1913, 1916, 1918, 1919, 1921, 1922, including certificates of posting election notices, notices of appointment of election board, election notices, petitions to establish community high school districts, poll books, and notices to school trustees to hold election.
- ix. Petitions and leases for sale of school lands, 1934, 1936, showing names and addresses of petitioners, location and legal description of property, and date of filing.
- x. Petitions for reorganization of established school districts and establishment of new districts, 1899-1910, 1912, 1917, 1918, 1924-29, 1931-33, 1935, showing name and address of petitioners, reason for appeal from decision of county superintendent of schools to circuit court, and final disposition of case.
- xi. Petitions for candidates to non-high school board of education, 1924--, showing name and address of petitioner and signers, acknowledgment, and date of filing.
- xii. Plats of school districts, 1825, 1836, 1839, 1844, 1848, showing boundaries and location of school districts, legal description of property, district number, and date of plat. The plat dated 1825 was drawn in Edgar County, before the formation of Vermilion County.
- xiii. Real estate mortgages held by school districts, 1834, 1836, 1839, 1841, 1852, 1866, 1871, 1873, showing date and terms of mortgage, rate of interest, consideration, legal description and location of property, names of mortgagee and mortgagor, and dates of filing and recording.
- xiv. Superintendent's monthly statement of financial transactions of his office, 1899--, showing balance forwarded, total amount of receipts and disbursements, date, balance available, signature of superintendent of schools, and recapitulation of accounts.

Also contains Township Treasurers' Bonds, 1865-1921, entry 387. No obvious arr. No index. Nature of recording varies. 11 x 5 x 14. Off. of supt. of sch., 3rd fl.

XVI. SUPERINTENDENT OF HIGHWAYS

From 1826 to 1849 the county commissioners' court exercised jurisdiction over roads and bridges in Vermilion County.¹ The court was empowered to locate new roads, to alter or vacate old roads, to divide the county into road districts, and to appoint a supervisor in each district.² The construction and maintenance of roads were effected by means of a labor tax levied on all able-bodied men between the ages of eighteen and fifty. It was the supervisors' duty to summon these men for work when road labor was needed.³

From 1849 to 1851, the county court in Vermilion County had the control and supervision of public roads and bridges. The substitution of this administrative body for the old county commissioners' court effected no material changes in the earlier set-up. The system of road districts was retained and the work of superintending road construction and maintenance continued to be vested in district supervisors.⁴

In 1851, when township organization was instituted in Vermilion County,⁵ the care and superintendence of roads became the responsibility of the townships. In 1849 legislation enabling the adoption of this form of county government had provided for the election in each township of a highway commissioner and as many overseers of highways as there were road districts in the county. The commissioners at their annual meeting determined necessary action for establishing new roads and repairing, altering, or vacating old roads; the overseers of highways were then required to carry out the commissioners' instructions.⁶ This system of road control and maintenance obtained until 1913; in that year the office of superintendent of highways was first established.⁷ The boards of highway commissioners which existed prior to that date have continued to function, but their powers are principally subordinated to those of the superintendent of highways.

The superintendent is appointed by the county board. The board submits a list of three to five candidates to the State Department of Public Works and Buildings, which department examines the candidates to determine the person best fitted for the office.⁸ The successful candidate holds office

1. L.1819, p. 175; R.L.1827, p. 340.
2. L.1819, p. 333; L.1825, p. 130; R.L.1827, p. 340,344.
3. L.1819, p. 334; R.L.1827, p. 341,342.
4. L.1847, p. 111-13; L.1849, p. 65; L.1851, p. 179.
5. Township organization, adopted in 1850, was not effective until 1851.
6. L.1849, p. 212.
7. L.1913, p. 524.
8. L.1921, p. 781; L.1933, p. 961. From 1913 to 1917 the list was submitted to the State Highway Commission. In 1917 this state agency was abolished, and its rights, powers, and duties were vested in the Department of Public Works and Buildings, created in the same year (L.1913, p. 524; L.1917, p. 4,16,24).

Superintendent of Highways

for six years and is remunerated in a sum fixed by the county board.

The powers and duties of the superintendent of highways come under the rules and regulations of the Department of Public Works and Buildings. However, the superintendent is subject, upon hearing, to removal by the county board. The superintendent exercises supervision over township, county, and state-aid roads, and bridges and culverts in his county, and is required to perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the chief highway engineer of the state.¹

His principal duties are as follows:

1. To prepare plans, specifications, and estimates for all bridges to be built by the county.
2. To supervise the construction and maintenance of county roads and bridges, and state-aid roads.
3. To inspect the highways and bridges in each town or district of his county at least once a year.
4. To advise and direct the highway commissioners in each town or district as to the best methods of repair, maintenance, and improvement of highways and bridges.
5. To approve any purchase in excess of \$200 for materials, machinery, or apparatus to be used in road construction in any town or district.²

He is required to keep the following records:

1. Records of contracts, purchases, and expenditures authorized by himself, the county board, or township commissioners.
2. Maps, plats, blueprints, specifications, etc., arising from his supervision of roads and bridges, or the planning of new construction.
3. Accounts of the funds handled by his office.
4. Reports from other officers or bodies touching upon the affairs of his office; copies of his own reports on the administration of his office; related papers.³

1. L.1921, p. 782; L.1933, p. 961.

2. L.1913, p. 523-26.

3. Ibid., p. 525.

Superintendent of Highways - Commissioners' Records: Construction and Maintenance Records

Commissioners' Records

391. TOWNSHIP ROAD RECORD, 1851-1904. 1 v.

Road record of surveyor and road commissioners of Danville Township, showing location of road, names of surveyor and commissioners, proceedings of commissioners, and date of meetings. Arr. by date of meeting. Indexed by township and range no. Hdw. 428 p. 16 x 12 x 2. Off. of supt. of hwy., 3rd fl.

392. (ROAD PLATS), 1879--. 1879-1905 in Miscellaneous Papers, entry 87; 1906-- in Supervisors' Papers, entry 1.

Plats of various roads in Vermilion County, showing legal description of rights of way, locations of bridges and culverts, and type of material used in surfacing.

Construction and Maintenance Records

393. PLANS, 1914--. 29 bdl., 8 f.b.

Plans for proposed state-aid highways, showing location and outline of road, name of engineer, and dates of plan and filing. Arr. by date of plan. No index. Blueprint. 1 in. to 100 ft. Bdl. 13 x 9 x 2; f.b. 14 x 15 x 28. 29 bdl., 1914-30, vlt. of supt. of hwy., 3rd fl.; 8 f.b., 1931--, work rm. of supt. of hwy., 3rd fl.

394. ROAD RECORD, 1914--. 84 f.b. (74 f.b., 1914--; 10 f.b., 1915--).

Title varies: Miscellaneous Papers, 10 f.b., 1915--.

Miscellaneous papers relating to construction and maintenance of roads, bridges, streets, and sewers, including contracts for construction and maintenance, requisitions for supplies, superintendent's correspondence, data on construction and maintenance, claims for labor and material; also contains itemized cost sheets subsequent to 1928, showing amounts of expenditures, deductions, and additions for engineering and labor, and materials of each project. Arr. chron. No index. Hdw., typed, and hdw. and typed on pr. fm. 11 x 5 x 14 - 14 x 15 x 26. 74 f.b., 1914--, off. of supt. of hwy., 3rd fl.; 10 f.b., 1915--, work rm. of supt. of hwy., 3rd fl.

395. CONSTRUCTION LEDGER, 1917--. 5 v. (4 not numbered, 1).

Ledger of highway construction expenses paid, showing claim number, date, amount, and purpose of payment, and name of payee. Arr. by date of payment. No index. 1917-20, hdw.; 1921--, hdw. under pr. hdgs. 100 p. 13 x 15 x 1. Vlt. of supt. of hwy., 3rd fl.

396. HIGHWAY COSTS, 1931--. 1 v. (1).

Record of contract costs for highway materials, showing advertising, estimating, and treasurer's fees, cost of material, type and location of construction, and date. Arr. by date of contract. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 100 p. 12 x 18 x 2. Work rm. of supt. of hwy., 3rd fl.

Superintendent of Highways -
Allotments and Claims; Surveys

397. TIME BOOK, 1930--. 1 v.

County highway employees' time ledger showing name of employee, number of hours and days of work, rate of pay, amount of earnings, and date of operation. Arr. by date of operation. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 100 p. 13 x 9 x 1. Off. of supt. of hwys., 3rd fl.

Allotments and Claims

398. ALLOTMENT LEDGER, 1932--. 4 v.

Motor fuel tax allotment ledger showing date and amount of receipts from motor fuel tax, amount of distribution to townships and road districts, receipt and claim numbers, totals, and balance on hand. Arr. by date of receipt. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 50 p. 12 x 9 x 1. 1 v., 1932-33, vlt. of supt. of hwys., 3rd fl.; 3 v., 1934--, work rm. of supt. of hwys., 3rd fl.

399. HIGHWAY FUNDS RECEIVED, 1932--. 1 v.

Record of funds received from motor fuel tax and state refunds, showing amount of refund, name of payer, and date of receipt. Arr. by date of receipt. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 75 p. 12 x 18 x 1. Work rm. of supt. of hwys., 3rd fl.

400. CLAIM REGISTER, 1932--. 1 v.

Register of claims against highway funds, showing name of claimant, number and amount of claim, services performed, materials, and date of filing. Arr. by date of filing. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 75 p. 12 x 18 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. Work rm. of supt. of hwys., 3rd fl.

401. EXPENSE CLAIMS, 1932-33. 1 v.

Register of expense claims referred to board of supervisors for payment, showing name and address of claimant, date, amount, number, and purpose of claim, and dates of payment and filing. Arr. by date of claim. No index. Typed under pr. hdgs. 100 p. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 10 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. Vlt. of supt. of hwys., 3rd fl.

For original claims, see entry 394.

Surveys

(See also entries 407-411)

402. SURVEY NOTE BOOK, 1915--. 17 $\frac{1}{4}$ v. (125 not numbered, 1-49).

Missing: 1917-29.

Construction notes covering surveys showing description of land, elevations, location of objects, and name of owner of surveyed land. Arr. by date of entry. For index, see entry 403. Hdw. 80 p. 7 x 4 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. 125 v. not numbered, 1915-16, off. of supt. of hwys., 3rd fl.; v. 1-49, 1930--, work rm. of supt. of hwys., 3rd fl.

403. INDEX TO SURVEYOR'S NOTES, 1915--. 2 v. Missing: 1917-29. Index to Survey Note Book, entry 402, showing name of township, legal description of land, and book and page of entry. 1915-16, arr. alph. by name of twp.; 1930--, arr. by note book no. Hdw. 80 p. 7 x 4 x $\frac{1}{2}$. 1 v., 1915-16, off. of supt. of hwys., 3rd fl.; 1 v., 1930--, work rm. of supt. of hwys., 3rd fl.

Warrants

404. WARRANTS ISSUED, 1934--. 1 v. Register of warrants issued for county highway construction and maintenance, showing date, number, amount, and purpose of warrant, and name of payee. Arr. by date of warrant. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 75 p. 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 13 x 1. Off. of supt. of hwys., 3rd fl.

Reports
(See entry 21)

405. COUNTY TREASURER'S MONTHLY REPORT, 1934--. 1 v. Treasurer's monthly reports to superintendent of highways on motor fuel tax fund, showing amounts of deposits and warrants issued for current month, balance in fund, and date of report. Arr. by date of report. No index. Typed on pr. fm. 50 p. 10 x 12 x 1. Off. of supt. of hwys., 3rd fl.

Correspondence

406. CORRESPONDENCE OF STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICER, 1936--. 2 bdl. Correspondence with state procurement officer concerning instructions for bidders on contracts, equipment regulations, and contract prices and approvals. Arr. by date of correspondence. No index. Typed. 15 x 12 x 1. Vlt. of supt. of hwys., 3rd fl.

XVII. SURVEYOR

The office of surveyor was established in the state of Illinois in 1821; the incumbent was an appointee of the General Assembly.¹ During recess of the legislature, nominations were made by the county commissioners' court to the Governor.² From 1835 to 1936, the county surveyor was

1. L.1821, p. 62; R.L.1829, p. 172; R.L.1833, p. 591.
2. Ibid.

an elected officer of the county electorate.¹ Since September, 1936 he has been an appointee of the county board.² His appointment is for a four-year term. He takes and subscribes to an oath which is filed in the county clerk's office.

The surveyor is required by law to make all surveys within the bounds of his county that he may be called upon to make by the county board or interested persons. Such surveys include surveys of lands of persons requesting the same, of additions or subdivisions, and marking of county lines. Few changes have been made in the original statutory requirements for the duties of this office. The surveyor may appoint one or more deputies. Any individual requesting a survey must employ his own chainmen subject to the approval of the surveyor.

The surveyor is required by law to keep a well-bound book in which to record all surveys made by him, giving such information as the names of the persons whose land is surveyed and descriptive data of the survey. This record is required to be kept by the surveyor in the recorder's office. The surveyor also preserves his field notes and retains copies of plats.³

For other records of surveys, see entries 402, 403.

407. SURVEYOR'S RECORD, 1823--, 5 v. (1-5).

Record of surveys by county surveyor, showing legal description and plat of property, names of owner and surveyor, dates of survey and recording, and affidavit of surveyor. Arr. by date of recording. 1823-55, indexed by twp. no.; 1856-1910, no index; for index, 1911--, see entry 408. Hdw. and hand-drawn. 500 p. 18 x 12 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Vlt. of supt. of hwys., 3rd fl.

408. (INDEX TO SURVEYOR'S RECORD), 1911--. 1 f.b.

Card index to Surveyor's Record, entry 407, showing name of landowner, and book and page of entry. Arr. alph. by name of landowner. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 5 x 4 x 12. Off. of supt. of hwys., 3rd fl.

409. BLUE PRINTS (of Surveys), 1908--. 65 bdl.

Plats of surveys of public and private property, showing location of property, names of owner and surveyor, and date of survey. Arr. by date of survey. No index. Blueprint. 20 x 30 x 1. Vlt. of supt. of hwys., 3rd fl.

1. L.1835, p. 166; L.1837, p. 558; R.S.1845, p. 523; R.S.1874, p. 456, 1050; L.1903, p. 349.

2. L.1933, p. 1104. Effective in 1936.

3. L.1821, p. 63,64; R.L.1829, p. 173; R.L.1833, p. 591-93, 599,600; L.1845, p. 201; R.S.1845, p. 524; R.S.1874, p. 1050; L.1885, p. 248; L.1915, p. 575; L.1933, p. 1104.

410. COUNTY SURVEYOR'S INDEX TO CEMETERY PLATS (Record), 1909--. 1 v. List of cemetery lots, showing legal description of lot, name of surveyor, and deed record and page number. Arr. by sec. and lot nos. Hdw. and typed. 4 p. 11 x 9 x $\frac{1}{2}$. Off. of supt. of hwys., 3rd fl.

411. PLAT BOOK OF ADDITIONS TO DANVILLE AND IMMEDIATE VICINITY, 1915-18. 1 v.

Plat record of additions to Danville, showing name, legal description, plat of addition, surveyor's record and page number, and date of survey. Arr. alph. by name of addition. No index. Hdw. and typed. 100 p. : 10 x 12 x 1. Vlt. of supt. of hwys., 3rd fl.

XVIII. DRAINAGE COMMISSIONERS

For the purpose of aiding in public welfare and health, the constitution has delegated to the General Assembly broad power to provide laws in regard to drainage.¹ By statutory provision these activities are exercised by drainage commissioners in districts of Vermilion County. The corporate authorities of the drainage districts have power to acquire rights of way, issue bonds, construct and maintain drains, ditches, and levees for agricultural, sanitary or mining purposes, and assess the benefited property.²

Drainage districts may be organized by land owners upon petition to the county court. When the court finds in favor of the petitioners, it then enters an order to that effect and appoints three commissioners to examine and survey the proposed lands. The commissioners, when they have completed their assignment, make a final report to the court with recommendations and the copies of surveys, maps, plats, and estimates.³ The districts are of three kinds: regular, which is composed of property lying in a single town; union, where the lands organized lie in two towns; special, with three or more towns involved.⁴ Three kinds of districts, regular, union, and special, are maintained in Vermilion County.

1. Constitution of 1870, Art. IV, sec. 31.
2. First amendment to the constitution, ratified November 29, 1878, incorporated in the Constitution of 1870, Art. IV, sec. 31; L.1879, p. 124-39.
3. L.1871-72, p. 356-58; R.S.1874, p. 429; L.1875, p. 76,77; L.1879, p. 120,124,155; L.1885, p. 78,93,95,110-15; L.1907, p. 275; L.1913, p. 261.
4. L.1879, p. 155; L.1885, p. 93,94,113. River districts, though not in this category, may be organized similarly and with like powers (L.1885, p. 106).

After the report on a proposed district has been made, the court completes the organization of the district.¹ The corporate powers of regular and union districts are vested in three commissioners appointed by town clerks. The corporate authority in special drainage districts is vested in three elected commissioners of the district.² In regular districts the commissioners appoint one of their number to act as secretary. The town clerk in union districts acts as the clerk of the district.³ The county clerk and county treasurer, in cases of special drainage districts are, respectively, ex-officio clerk⁴ and treasurer⁵ of each district.

The following records belong to the drainage commissioners:

1. Records of bonds issued.
2. Assessment books.
3. Petitions of owners of land to stay assessments, orders of commissioners thereupon, and other proceedings.
4. State auditor's certificates of interest due on bonds.
5. Tax lists showing pro-rata share of levy for bond interest (union and special districts only).
6. Copies of reports to county court on condition of district and estimated expenditures; and to county treasurer on delinquent lands; maps and plats, surveys and estimates; office transactions.⁶

The first two records are required to be kept in separate books, the next three generally are known as the "Drainage Record," and the remaining records are kept desultorily.

For records of drainage fund accounts, see entries 345, 346.

412. DRAINAGE PAPERS, 1903--. 26 f.b.

Files of drainage papers, including plats of districts, petitions, affidavits, claims, reports of commissioners, and orders and decrees of the county court. No obvious arr. No index. Hdw. and typed. $10\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{2} \times 14$. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

For right-of-way releases and settlements, see entry 291[iv].

1. See footnote 3, p. 293.
2. L.1879, p. 156; L.1885, p. 93, 95, 113.
3. L.1915, p. 390. The town clerk shall be clerk of the union drainage district, when the major portion lies in his town.
4. L.1885, p. 95; L.1915, p. 390; L.1919, p. 468.
5. L.1885, p. 78, 104.
6. L.1879, p. 120-34; L.1885, p. 78-104.

413. 'DRAINAGE RECORD, 1904--. 3 v. (1-3). Last entry 1930. Record of proceedings of drainage commissioners, showing names of commissioners, drainage districts, and landowners, approvals of accounts, petitions for purchase of equipment, estimated cost of improvements, amount of special assessments, date of filing objections, and orders of court. Arr. by date of proceedings. Indexed alph. by name of district. 1904-28, hdw.; 1929--, typed. 350 p. 18 x 13 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Co. clk.'s vlt., 3rd fl.

414. DRAINAGE RELEASE OF RIGHT OF WAY, 1880--. 1 v. Last entry 1884. Recordation of deeds for land conveyances to drainage districts and provisions for reversion, showing name of owner, legal description of property, consideration, terms of reversion, date and number of instrument, and acknowledgment. Arr. by date of instrument. Indexed alph. by name of owner. Hdw. on pr. fm. Binding poor. 500 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Rec.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

XIX. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

Matters relating to public assistance and welfare in the county are handled by the department of public welfare, which was established in 1937 as successor to the county commission of public welfare.¹ This department consists of the superintendent of public welfare and a staff selected by him in accordance with, and subject to, the approval of the State Department of Public Welfare.

The county board submits to the state department a list of five residents as candidates for the office of superintendent. An eligible list of these candidates is prepared by the state department by competitive examination and certified to the county board. The board in turn makes an order appointing one of the eligibles as superintendent of public welfare.²

The superintendent is charged with all the executive and administrative duties and responsibilities of the department of public welfare. He is subject to the rules and regulations of, and removal by, the state agency.³

This officer has power and it is his duty to:

1. Have charge and develop plans for the administration of old age assistance.
2. Investigate and study problems of assistance, correction, and general welfare within his county.

1. L.1935-36, First Sp. Sess., p. 70-73; L.1937, p. 451.
2. L.1937, p. 451, 452.
3. Ibid., p. 452.

3. Cooperate with the State Department of Public Welfare in the operation of welfare plans and policies in his county.
4. Maintain such records and file such reports with the State Department of Public Welfare as that department may require.
5. Serve as agent and executive officer of the State Department of Public Welfare in the administration of all forms of public assistance administered by that department.¹

All the records of the county department are subject to the inspection and supervision of the agents of this central authority.

The department of public welfare administers old age assistance and is subject to the rules and regulations of the state department.² Upon receipt of an application the department makes an investigation of the case. In the course of the investigation the department is allowed to hold hearings and compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of papers and books.³

Old age assistance records and accounts are kept as prescribed by the state department. All applications and records in these matters are considered public records.⁴

415. CASE FILES, 1936--. 12 f.b.

File records of pending, active, closed, and deceased old age assistance cases, showing date of application, case number, name, address, age, sex, nativity, and marital status of applicant, list of property, amounts of insurance, income, and applicant's living expense for last twelve months, investigator's report, correspondence, amount of allowance and payment, date and reason for closing case, and date of death. Arr. by application no. For index, see entry 416. Hdw., hdw. on pr. fm., typed, and typed on pr. fm. 14 x 20 x 36. Co. judge's off., 3rd fl.

416. MASTER CARD FILE (Index), 1936--. 5 f.b.

Card file index to Case Files, entry 415, showing name and address of applicant, number of application, date of approval or denial, and name of investigator. Arr. alph. by name of applicant. Hdw. on pr. fm. 6 x 4 x 10. Co. judge's off., 3rd fl.

1. L.1935-36, First Sp. Sess., p. 72; L.1937, p. 452.
2. L.1935, p. 259,260; L.1935-36, First Sp. Sess., p. 54,55; L.1937, p. 265.
3. L.1935-36, First Sp. Sess., p. 57-59; L.1937, p. 267,268.
4. L.1937, p. 268,269.

417. (APPLICATION OLD AGE ASSISTANCE), 1936--. 1 f.b.

Applications for old age assistance, showing name, age, address, sex, date, place of birth, and nationality of applicant, number of years of residence in county, state, and the United States, marital status, list and value of property, acknowledgment, and date of filing. Arr. by case no. For index, see entry 418. Hdw. and typed on pr. fm. 18 x 12 x 26. Co. judge's off., 3rd fl.

418. (INDEX TO APPLICATIONS OLD AGE ASSISTANCE), 1936--. 1 f.b.

Card index to (Applications Old Age Assistance), entry 417, showing name and address of applicant, case number, and date of application. Arr. alph. by name of applicant. Typed on pr. fm. 18 x 12 x 26. Co. judge's off., 3rd fl.

419. STATISTICAL FILES, 1936--. 4 f.b.

File of statistical data on active and closed cases, showing date and number of application, name, address, age, and sex of applicant, investigator's report, date of approval or denial, amounts of allowance and payment, and date of closing. Arr. by application no. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 8 x 6 x 11. Co. judge's off., 3rd fl.

420. REGISTER OF APPLICANTS, 1936--. 1 v.

Register of applications for old age assistance, showing name and address of applicant, and date and number of application, and whether reapplication made. Arr. by date of application. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 10 x 16 x 2. Co. judge's off., 3rd fl.

XX. COUNTY HOME

One phase of public assistance is administered by the county home. All county poorhouses, poor farms, and institutions for the support and care of indigents in Illinois are known as county homes.¹ County poorhouses and farms have existed in this state under statutory provisions for nearly a century. The legislation creating these county establishments for the indigent has changed little since the original enactments. The county boards of the various counties may establish a county home, and are granted the following powers:

1. To acquire by purchase, grant, gift, or devise, a suitable tract or tracts upon which to erect and maintain a county poorhouse and other necessary buildings, and for the establishment and maintenance of a farm for the employment of the poor.

1. L.1919, p. 699; L.1935, p. 1058.

2. To receive gifts and bequests to aid in the erection and maintenance of the poorhouse, or in the care of the indigents.
3. To make rules and regulations for the same.
4. To appoint a keeper of the poorhouse and all necessary agents and servants for the management and control of the poorhouse and farm, and to prescribe their compensation and duties.
5. To appoint a county physician and prescribe his compensation and duties.
6. To appoint an agent to have the general supervision and charge of all matters in relation to the care and support of the poor, and to prescribe his compensation and duties.
7. To make the necessary appropriations for the erection and maintenance of the county home.¹

Records of the county home are prepared and kept by the keeper (superintendent) of the home. He is required to keep an account showing the name of each person admitted to the county poorhouse, the time of his admission and discharge, the place of his birth, and the cause of his dependency. He is also required, at the same time each year, to file with the county clerk of his county a copy of this record together with a statement showing the average number of persons kept in the poorhouse each month during the year.²

Inmates and Patients

421. CARD RECORD OF PATIENTS, 1916--. 2 v., 1 f.b. Title varies:
Record of Inmates, 2 v., 1916-35.

Record of county home patients, showing name, age, sex, nativity, and occupation of inmates, date and place of birth, name of correspondent, valuation of property owned, cause of pauperism, record of military services, and dates of admission and discharge; in cases of death, date and place of burial. 1916-35, arr. by date of admission; 1936--, arr. alph. by name of patient. 1916-35, indexed alph. by name of patient; 1936--, no index. Hdw. on pr. fm. V. 600 p. 18 x 13 x 3; f.b. 6 x 12 x 24. Off. of supt. of co. home, 1st fl.

Receipts and Expenditures

422. CASH BOOK, 1936--. 1 v.

Cash book of receipts and expenditures of county home, showing date, amount, and purpose of receipts and expenditures, names of payer and payee, and totals. Arr. chron. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 100 p. 8 x 12 x 1. Off. of supt. of co. home, 1st fl.

1. L.1839, p. 139; R.S.1845, p. 404,405; L.1861, p. 180; R.S.1874, p. 757; L.1917, p. 638; L.1919, p. 698; L.1935, p. 1057,1058.
2. R.S.1874, p. 758.

423. RECORDS OF PURCHASE ORDERS, 1938--. 1 v.

Duplicates of purchase orders issued, showing date and amount of order, articles of purchase, and names of payee and account charged with order. Arr. by date of order. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 100 p. 12 x 15 x 1. Off. of supt. of co. home, 1st fl.

XXI. TUBERCULOSIS SANITARIUM BOARD

In 1909 the powers of the county were extended to permit the establishment of a sanitarium for the care and treatment of county residents suffering from tuberculosis.¹ This provision was greatly amplified in an act of 1915 which described in detail the conditions necessary to the establishment of such an institution and the manner in which it was to be supported, managed, and controlled.²

The act provided that whenever one hundred legal voters in a county should petition the county board to levy a tax for the establishment and maintenance of a tuberculosis sanitarium, the board was required to submit the question to the voters of the county at the next regular general election. A favorable majority of all votes cast upon the proposition was necessary for adoption.³ In the original legislation of 1915, the amount of the tax levy was limited to not more than three mills on the dollar annually on all taxable property in the county.⁴ This limit was lowered in 1923 to two mills,⁵ and further reduced in 1929 to one and one-half mills,⁶ the present statutory requirement. The money thus received was to be set apart in a special Tuberculosis Sanitarium Fund.⁷

The management of the sanitarium was vested in a board of three directors appointed by the president or chairman of the county board with the approval of that body. The directors were to serve for three years.⁸ Vacancies on the board were to be filled in the manner in which original appointments were made. Immediately after their appointment, the directors were required to meet and elect from their number a president, sec-

1. L.1909, p. 162.

2. L.1915, p. 346-49.

3. Ibid., p. 346,347.

4. Ibid., p. 346.

5. L.1923, p. 302.

6. L.1929, p. 304.

7. L.1915, p. 346; L.1923, p. 302; L.1929, p. 304,305.

8. The first three directors, however, were required to serve for irregular terms of one, two, and three years in order to permit the appointment of one new director annually. Choice of terms was decided by lot (L.1915, p. 347).

retary, and such other officers as they might deem necessary.¹ The Vermilion County electorate voted on June 9, 1919 for the levying of a tax to establish such an institution, and on the same day the first board of directors was appointed.²

Today the powers and duties of the board of directors are essentially the same as in 1915. The directors have been given broad powers in the control and management of any sanitarium, all dispensaries, or auxiliary institutions and activities established or carried on under the provisions of the act of 1915 and subsequent legislation.³ They are granted exclusive control of the expenditure of all moneys collected to the credit of the fund and may receive, in the name of the county, contributions or donations to the sanitarium of money or property. Persons desiring to make a donation, bequest, or devise of any money, personal property, or real estate may vest the title to such property in the board of directors who, upon acceptance, hold and control it and act as special trustees. Otherwise, all moneys received for the use of the sanitarium are deposited in the county treasury within a month after their receipt, to be drawn only by the proper officers upon presentation of properly authenticated vouchers of the board of directors. When such a deposit is made the board is required to secure a receipt from the treasurer.⁴

Since 1923, to insure greater working efficiency, counties maintaining tuberculosis sanitaria have been permitted to convey property to any adjacent county or counties upon such terms and conditions as the respective county boards agree on by a majority vote of all members of each board. In the same year it was also provided that counties without public tuberculosis facilities might use funds secured for that purpose to give patients sanitarium care in private or public sanitaria of the state.⁵ Vermilion County maintains a tuberculosis dispensary, but patients requiring hospitalization are sent to the Plamer Sanitarium at Ottawa in LaSalle County or to the St. John's Sanitarium at Riverton in Sangamon County.

The directors are required to report monthly to the county board on conditions in the sanitarium. They also return to that body a monthly list of the names of all persons making contributions and donations, the amount and nature of the property so received, and the date of its receipt. On or before the second Monday in June in each year, the directors make an annual report to the county board, stating the condition of their trust on the first day of June, the various sums of money received from all

1. L.1915, p. 347.

2. Supervisors' Record v. S., p. 504.

3. L.1915, p. 346-49; L.1923, p. 302,303; L.1929, p. 304,305.

Cf. R.S.1937, p. 955-59.

4. L.1915, p. 347-49.

5. L.1923, p. 303.

sources and how and for what purpose expended, the number of patients, and other pertinent statistics, information, and suggestions.¹

Charts and Reports

424. CHARTS OF PATIENTS, 1920--. 3 crates, 4 f.b.
Case histories and health charts of patients, showing name, address, age, race, sex, education, social status, and occupation of patient, number of years of residence in Vermilion County, names of parents and relatives, progress chart, and report on diagnosis of case. Arr. alph. by name of patient. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. and typed. 12 x 12 x 30. 3 crates, 1920-33, meeting rm., bsmt.; 4 f.b., 1934--, off., 1st fl., Tuberculosis Dispensary.

425. REPORTS, 1934--. 1 f.b.
Copies of miscellaneous reports by sanitarium board, including annual reports to board of supervisors of general activities; reports to board on warrants drawn on building and equipment funds; monthly reports to state tuberculosis board; quarterly reports to township supervisors; and, subsequent to 1938, monthly reports to Internal Revenue Service on tax-free alcohol. No obvious arr. No index. Typed, and typed on pr. fm. 12 x 12 x 30. Off., 1st fl., Tuberculosis Dispensary.

Tests

426. MANTOUX TEST, 1934--. 3 f.b.
Card record of Mantoux tests, showing name, address, and age of patient, date of test taken, reaction, and whether positive or negative. Arr. alph. by name of patient. No index. Typed. 3 x 12 x 30. Off., 1st fl., Tuberculosis Dispensary.

427. X-RAY PICTURES, 1934--. 6 f.b.
Files of X-ray negatives of patients, showing names of patient and doctor by whom referred, and date of X-ray. Arr. alph. by name of patient. No index. Hdw. 20 x 16 x 30. Off., 1st fl., Tuberculosis Dispensary.

428. X-RAY CLASSIFICATIONS, 1934--. 1 f.b.
Card record of X-ray classifications, showing name, age, and address of patient, date and number of classification. Arr. by classification no. No index. Typed. 3 x 12 x 30. Off., 1st fl., Tuberculosis Dispensary.

1. L.1915, p. 348,349.

Receipts and Expenditures

429. CASH BOOK, 1935--. 1 v.

Register of daily receipts and disbursements, showing check number, dates and amounts of receipts and expenditures, names of payer and payee, and name of account. Arr. by date of receipt or expenditure. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 50 p. 12 x 20 x 1. Off., 1st fl., Tuberculosis Dispensary.

430. GENERAL LEDGER, 1935--. 1 v.

Ledger of county sanitarium board accounts, showing name of account, dates and amounts of debits and credits, purpose, totals, and balance on hand. Arr. alph. by title of account. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 50 p. 12 x 14 x 1. Off., 1st fl., Tuberculosis Dispensary.

XXII. FARM BUREAU

Vermilion County farm bureau was organized in 1908 to promote and foster the social and economic interest of persons engaged in agriculture, and to encourage, promote, and foster cooperative organizations for the mutual benefit of its members. The membership of this bureau is made up of farmers of the county. A farm advisor is employed who cooperates with the University of Illinois College of Agriculture in its program of extension education and farm studies, and to work with farm leaders in establishing such organizations as 4-H clubs and Dairy Herd Improvement Associations.

In 1914 Congress inaugurated a program of agricultural extension education by providing for cooperation between the agricultural colleges in the several states and the United States Department of Agriculture.¹ The purpose of the act was to aid in diffusing useful and practical information on subjects relating to agriculture and home economics, and to encourage the application of the same. An appropriation was made to each state to carry out the act, subject to the assent by the state legislature to the provisions of the act, and provided that the state appropriate a sum equal to that given by the Federal Government.² The General Assembly assented to this act by a joint resolution which, authorized and empowered the trustees of the University of Illinois to receive the grants of money appropriated under the act, and to organize and conduct agricultural extension work in connection with the College of Agriculture of the University.³

1. 38 U.S.S.L. 372.

2. Ibid., 373.

3. L.1915, Joint Resolutions, p. 732.

The General Assembly appropriated money in 1917 for the payment of county agricultural advisors.¹ The money was to be appropriated to the Department of Agriculture to be distributed equally among the several county agricultural advisors of the state, to apply upon their salaries. The vouchers approved by the Department of Agriculture for payment were to be accompanied by the certificate of the agricultural college of the University of Illinois that the requirements of the act relative to the employment of county advisors had been substantially applied. In 1928, to further develop the cooperative extension system in agriculture and home economics, Congress appropriated additional sums of money, eighty percent of which was to be utilized for the payment of salaries of extension agents in counties of the several states.²

431. MEMBERSHIP FILE, 1938--. 1 f.b.

Card record of members in good standing for the year of 1938, showing name and address of member, contract number, and date of payment of dues. A new card record is made each year, the record for the previous year being destroyed. Arr. alph. by name of member. No index. Typed. 5 x 6 x 30. Farm Bureau off., Chamber of Commerce Bldg., 2nd fl.

432. CORRESPONDENCE FILE, 1920--. 3 f.b.

General correspondence to and from the farm advisor, and farm bureau. Arr. alph. by name of correspondent. No index. Hdw. and typed. 14 x 15 x 30. Farm Bureau off., Chamber of Commerce Bldg., 2nd fl.

433. LEDGER, 1920--. 1 v.

Ledger account of farm bureau, showing name of account, amount of debits and credits, balance on hand, and dates of entries. Arr. alph. by name of account. No index. Hdw. 400 p. 8 x 12 x 2. Farm Bureau off., Chamber of Commerce Bldg., 2nd fl.

434. CASH BOOK, 1920--. 3 v.

Register of receipts and disbursements, showing name of payer and payee, and date, amount, and purpose of receipt or disbursement. Arr. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 600 p. 12 x 15 x 3. Farm Bureau off., Chamber of Commerce Bldg., 2nd fl.

1. L.1917, p. 85.

2. 45 U.S.S.L. 711.

XXIII. HOME BUREAU

Vermilion County Home Bureau was organized in 1919 to carry on adult education on all home economics subjects. The home economics club may participate in the appropriation for the fund known as the "Agricultural Premium Fund," providing that such club conducts at least one show or exhibition of home economics project work and promptly pays in cash the premiums awarded. A home advisor is employed who cooperates with the University of Illinois College of Agriculture, the State Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture in their program of extension education and home economics studies.¹

In 1914 Congress inaugurated a program of agricultural extension education by providing for cooperation between the agricultural colleges in the several states and the United States Department of Agriculture.² The purpose of the act was to aid in diffusing useful and practical information on subjects relating to agriculture and home economics, and to encourage the application of the same. An appropriation was made to each state to carry out the act, subject to the assent by the state legislature to the provisions of the act, and provided that the state appropriate a sum equal to that given by the Federal Government.³ The General Assembly assented to this act by a joint resolution which authorized and empowered the trustees of the University of Illinois to receive the grants of money appropriated under the act, and to organize and conduct agricultural extension work in connection with the College of Agriculture of the University.⁴

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1. L.1929, p. 762; L.1931, p. 889; L.1933, p. 1085; L.1935, p. 1414; L.1937, p. 1152.
2. 38 U.S.S.L. 372.
3. *Ibid.*, 373.
4. L.1915, Joint Resolutions, p. 732.
5. L.1917, p. 85.
6. 45 U.S.S.L. 711.

435. (MINUTE BOOK), 1919--. 5 v.

Minute record of executive meetings of home bureau, showing date of meeting, names of members present, treasurer's report, and business transactions. Arr. by date of meeting. No index. 1919-33, hdw.; 1934--, typed. 400 p. 15 x 10 x 2. Home Bureau off., 5th fl.

436. MEMBERSHIP CARDS AND RECORD CARDS, 1919--. 1 f.b.

Home bureau membership cards showing name and address of member, initials of husband, date of joining and start of dues, also record cards of members, showing name and address of member, unit of work, date and list of paid dues, and date of card. Arr. alph. by unit of work. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 4 x 5 x 18. Home Bureau off., 5th fl.

437. (VERMILION COUNTY GIRLS 4-H MEMBERSHIP CARDS), 1935--. 1 f.b.

Card record of girl members of 4-H Club, showing name, address, and age of member, date of beginning of membership, and type of club work. Arr. alph. by name of club member. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 6 x 12 x 24. Home Bureau off., 5th fl.

438. ANNUAL REPORTS, 1922--. 1 f.b.

Annual reports by supervisor of home bureau to the county treasurer, showing name of supervisor, date of report, summary of activities and accomplishments, changes in organization, and program, and recommendations for future work. Arr. by date of report. No index. Typed. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 12 x 24. Home Bureau off., 5th fl.

439. ILLINOIS HOME BUREAU ACCOUNTS, 1931--. 1 v.

Cash book of receipts and expenditures by home bureau, showing date and amounts of receipts and expenditures, source of receipts, name of payee, and purpose of payment. Arr. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 400 p. 10 x 15 x 2. Home Bureau off., 5th fl.

XXIV. JUVENILE DETENTION HOME

The fact that juvenile delinquents constitute a class of criminals entitled to special consideration under the law has been recognized in Illinois from the early days of statehood. According to the revised criminal code of 1827, "infants" under ten years were not to be found guilty of any crime or misdemeanor, and no person under the age of fourteen could be held responsible for a criminal act unless he knew the difference between right and wrong.¹ Later, in 1833, the General Assembly abolished peni-

1. R.L.1827, p. 124.

tentiary sentences for offenders under eighteen except in cases of robbery, burglary, or arson. For all other crimes punishable by imprisonment, juvenile delinquents were to be confined in the county jail for a period not exceeding eighteen months.¹

In 1867 the General Assembly provided for the establishment and maintenance of an institution "for the discipline, education, employment and reformation of juvenile offenders and vagrants between the ages of eight and eighteen years. . . ."² Under this act, courts of competent jurisdiction could exercise their discretion in sentencing juvenile offenders either to the county jail, in accordance with the existing law, or to the State Reform School, as the institution was called at that time. The act repealed those sections of the revised statutes of 1845 which permitted the courts to impose penitentiary sentences upon persons under eighteen convicted of burglary, arson, or robbery.³ In 1893 the General Assembly established the State Home for Juvenile Female Offenders.⁴ Prior to that year, the General Assembly had provided that delinquent girls under sixteen years of age could be sent to the reform school in Chicago if the guardians of that school were willing to receive them,⁵ and, two years later, that the trustees of the State Reform School might create a special department in the school for girls if such action seemed advisable.⁶ The act of 1893 stated that whenever a girl between the ages of ten and sixteen⁷ was convicted of any offence which, if committed by an adult, would be punishable by confinement in a house of correction or county jail, she might be committed to the state home or to the house of correction or county jail at the discretion of the court.⁸

1. R.L.1833, p. 209.

2. L.1867, p. 38. The act was amended in 1873 to apply only to boys between the ages of ten and sixteen years (L.1873, p. 147); in 1891 the upper age limit was extended to twenty-one years (L.1891, p. 54); and in 1915 the institution was set aside for youths between the ages of sixteen and twenty-six years (L.1915, p. 560). By that time, the Illinois State Home for Delinquent Boys had been established for boys between the ages of ten and sixteen years (L.1901, p. 68,69). It has subsequently been called the St. Charles School for Boys (L.1905-6, p. 87).

3. L.1867, p. 42-44.

4. L.1893, p. 24. The name was changed in 1901 to the State Training School for Girls (L.1901, p. 62).

5. L.1867, p. 42.

6. L.1869, p. 328.

7. In 1901 the upper age limit was increased to eighteen (L.1901, p. 62).

8. L.1893, p. 27.

An act of 1899 vested original jurisdiction over dependent, neglected, and delinquent children in the county and circuit courts.¹ The act prescribed regulations for the treatment, control, maintenance, adoption, and guardianship of such children;² provided for the establishment, in counties having more than five hundred thousand inhabitants, of a branch of the regular circuit court to try juvenile cases in a separate court room;³ and authorized the appointment of juvenile probation officers to assist the courts in dealing with children coming under the provisions of the act.⁴

County detention homes for the temporary care and custody of dependent, delinquent, or truant children are of comparatively recent origin. Legislation authorizing the establishment of such homes was first enacted in 1907.⁵ The act provided that upon petition to the county judge by twenty-five percent of the legal voters voting at the preceding general election, the question of levying a tax for the establishment and maintenance of a juvenile detention home should be submitted to the county electorate at the next regular general election. If a majority of the voters favored adoption, the county board was authorized to levy such a tax.⁶

The act states that the home shall be arranged, furnished, and conducted in a manner approximating conditions in a family home. During the period of their detention, the children are taught those subjects contained in the regular school curriculum for the first eight grades.⁷

Management of the home is vested in a matron, or superintendent and matron, appointed by the county judge, to serve during his pleasure. Additional help may be employed if he deems it necessary. All appointments, however, are subject to the approval of the county board, and the amount of salary paid to each employee is also set by that body. The superintendent or matron is required to receive and detain temporarily all children committed to the home by the court until further order of the court and to keep a complete record of every child so detained. The superintendent also keeps a record of all expenditures made by the county for the care and maintenance of the home and makes an annual report to the county board of all expenses necessary to maintain the institution together with a list of the number of children detained there each month. A copy of this report is filed with the county clerk.⁸

1. L.1899, p. 132.
2. Ibid., p. 131-37.
3. Ibid., p. 132.
4. Ibid., p. 133.
5. L.1907, p. 59-62.
6. Ibid., p. 61,62.
7. Ibid., p. 60.
8. Ibid., p. 60,61.

Vermilion County established such a home on January 25, 1938,¹ and it is known as the juvenile placement home.

For other juvenile records, see entries 169-173.

440. REGISTER, 1938--. 1 v.

Register of inmates of placement home, showing name, sex, age, and color of child, names of parents, dates of admission and dismissal. Arr. by date of admission. No index. Hdw. 200 p. 12 x 15 x 2. Off. of sup. of juvenile detention home, 1st fl., Danville, R.R. 4.

XXV. VETERINARIAN

The office of county veterinarian was created by statute in 1925 for counties willing to appropriate funds for the maintenance and employment of a veterinarian. As a prerequisite, the county must enter into a co-operative agreement with the Federal and State Departments of Agriculture for the control and eradication of bovine tuberculosis. The veterinarian, under the direction of the latter body, conducts tuberculin tests, keeps records thereof and reports to the state department.² The office was established in Vermilion County on September 12, 1922.³

Specific provision was not made under the original act for the method of selection. In 1929, however, it was provided that the veterinarian was to be appointed by the county board of supervisors upon approval of the State Department of Agriculture.⁴

1. Supervisors' Record, v. AA, p. 180.
2. L.1925, p. 2-9.
3. Supervisors' Record, v. U, p. 217.
4. L.1929, p. 7-12.

XXVI. MINE INSPECTOR

Legislation in regard to health and safety in the mining industry originally made the county surveyor ex-officio inspector of mines.¹ As such inspector he was to be assisted by a practical miner, to act under oath, and to receive a salary fixed by the county board and paid out of the county treasury. His duties were to see that safety measures were observed in the mines and to collect facts relative to coal mining and mining land. The inspector reported to the Governor annually on the condition of mines in regard to safety and ventilation and the result of examination of causes of accidents.

In 1877 the legislature authorized the county board, in each county in which mining is carried on, to appoint an inspector of mines.² This county inspector, who had to give evidence of practical mining experience, was required to take an oath of office, and to furnish a bond to the county board in an amount fixed by the latter body. The amount of the bond was fixed in 1879 at not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$3,000.³ Where a competent inspector was not appointed, or where the inspector did not properly perform his duties, then the circuit judge, at the request of ten citizens of the county, and upon proper proof of incompetency, was empowered to remove the inspector and appoint a properly qualified person to act during the unexpired term.⁴

The State Mining Board was created in 1899, and the state divided into seven inspection districts, with a State Inspector of Mines in each.⁵ The county also was fitted into this new organization with the requirement that the county board appoint a county inspector of mines upon the written request of the State Inspector for the district in which the particular county was located.⁶ The intention of the legislature to maintain centralization in mine inspection was indicated by this statute which made the county inspector an assistant to the State Inspector. In accordance with this act, a county mine inspector was appointed in Vermilion County on September 12, 1877.⁷ He makes his original report to the State Inspector, and leaves a copy at the mine inspected. He also reports, twice a year, to the county board the number of inspections made.

Provision was made in 1915 for petition by the State Inspector to the county court upon failure of the county board to appoint a suitable county

1. L.1871-72, p. 572.
2. L.1877, p. 141,142.
3. L.1879, p. 208.
4. Ibid., p. 209.
5. L.1899, p. 306,308.
6. Ibid., p. 314,315.
7. Supervisors' Record, v. G, p. 8.

mine inspector.¹ If necessary, the court will appoint an inspector, and order the county board to appropriate money for his compensation. This provision was recently reenacted.²

441. COUNTY MINE INSPECTOR'S REPORTS, 1932—. 1 bdl.

Carbon copies of reports of inspections of Vermilion County coal mines, made to state mine inspector and county board, showing date, name of mine, owner's name, location and condition of mine as to air top and rib construction, roadways, air courses, escape shaft, main shaft, and safety and first aid equipment, with recommendations and signature of mine inspector. Arr. by date of inspection. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 8 x 14 x 8. Home of mine inspector, 1st fl., R. R. 6, Westville.

1. L.1915, p. 509,510.

2. L.1939, p. 727,728.

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